

outta control

AUGUST 1980 No.7

Spence

**News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective**

OUTTA CONTROL ... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches ... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management. This paper comes out every 2-3 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

THE CRUNCH THAT DIDN'T COME

During the month of July, both Martin Meehan and Seamus Mullan were on hunger strike; Meehan finally went on a hunger and thirst strike when the N.I. office issued a statement virtually claiming that he was bluffing. Both were near death, but were persuaded by many different quarters, to end their protest.

Meehan was framed on a kidnapping charge, and Mullan wrongly accused of blackmail.

Meehan came off the blanket to try and keep his case clear from the dirt protest before he went on the hunger strike. It was none-the-less seen by many people as the final and ultimate step the blanket men and women could take to achieve their demands for political status....it was a continuation of that struggle.

It was also a way for the British government to gauge public opinion had Meehan died.... a guide to what might happen should the blanket-men take the same course. It was

Continued on inside

NEVER AGAIN!!

THE GOOD NEWS

Our old friend Irish Base Metals and Northgate (the multi-nationals involved in uranium exploration in Donegal, and through their subsidiary--Ulster Base Metal Metals, in Armagh and Down) have packed up and pulled out of mining operations in Tynagh, Co. Galway.

THE BAD NEWS

After 15 years of mining the area, and

making £30m. for their shareholders, and sweet f.a. for anybody else, there are no more metals left to mine....only huge mounds of polluting shit which Northgate and their public relations team plan to miraculously transform into green pasture. At one time they employed 300 people, but now all the jobs have ceased and no likelihood of people getting another job in the area. Gone too, for ever, are the precious ores ripped-off by the multi-nationals aided and abetted (as always) by the silent gombeen state....and the ITGWU, bought off initially with the prospect of jobs, and now with redundancy payments. NEVER AGAIN!!

CRITIC DEPORTED

Elsie Van Hout, a Dutch feminist and freelance journalist, sat on the tribunal Women Against Imperialism organised earlier this year into the Feb. 7th attack by male screws on the female protesters in Armagh prison.

She returned on July 13th along with other Dutch women to help rehabilitate a house for use as a women's centre on the Falls Rd.

She was arrested by Special Branch and initially held for 3 days at Caslereagh.

This period was extended for a further 7 days. When a Habeas Corpus order for her appearance in court was asked for by her solicitor, the Secretary of State served a deportation order allegedly because of her connection with the INLA. This was based on Elsie's lifelong friendship with a Dutch woman (they went to school together) who married someone from the IRSP.

She appealed this realising it was an attempt to silence international criticism of British rule here. After being removed to the protesting wing of Armagh prison, her appeal took place there before a high-up Civil Servant. She wasn't given reasons for her deportation but was expected to guess these and give justification of her right to stay. The civil servant then passed this information to the S of S. who, not surprisingly, ruled against her. Within days unknown to her solicitor and friends, she was sent to Dublin, from where she had made the last leg of her previous journey.

PICKET STOPPED

On the 2nd August Women Against Imperialism tried to stage a protest outside Armagh prison to highlight the conditions of Pauline Mc Laughlin. On the way down the bus was stopped by the RUC who said that they couldn't go any further with the band which was accompanying them. The women, after deliberation, said OK to this, but the RUC had another trick up their sleeve. They told the women that they'd have to go through a protestant estate on their way to the prison. This the women refused to do and staged a sit down protest beside the bus for about half an hour.

On the way back from Armagh the bus took a detour and went past Long Kesh. They left the buses and walked over the fields to beside the prison, where the band staged a performance, which the blanket-men must have heard.

After about 45 mins. the RUC finally approached and the women 'returned safely to bus'.

This is a nuclear power station with soldiers guarding it. The world is so crazy full of police stations & prisons and nuke stations and the world should be free and full of flowers. *Mickey*



ANARCHY

By a collective member. More in future.

I've seen blacked cloaked people giving out leaflets, and I can imagine tweed jacketed bomb throwers. Anarchists have been both of these, but the black cloaked bomb thrower is a figment of Fleet Street's imagination.

The word anarchy comes from the Greek and means without government. This divides us from other socialists. Yes we are socialists, but we are anti-authoritarian. When we call for the overthrow of hierarchy, we mean not only its exploitative role (capitalism), but also its authoritarian role (the state). During the First International, Michael Bakunin warned of the rise of Red bureaucracy if the state was not destroyed along with the other forms of tyranny.

As we have seen from Russia and more recently in the social-democratic countries of W. Europe, the state and capitalism are becoming increasingly interdependent. The state has taken over many of the functions of private capitalism, and has become the sole employer in the case of Russia, and a major employer in the case of W. Europe, not to mention its increasing control over all aspects of life.

There is of course the parallel (but not conflicting) growth of multinational firms who are based in the most powerful Western countries.

Ironically Marxism has played a leading role in providing the ideology of the state intervention for the more progressive forms of capitalism, both in the reformist politics of social-democratic, and the 3rd world 'revolutions' which have changed the country's dependence from one imperial power to another.

The state and capitalism have been the two big baddies for anarchists. But the third pillar of hierarchy which is even older than the other two has only recently been taken up generally by socialists — Patriarchy.

The various women's liberation groups have finally forced on to the attention of all, what was exposed before by such as Alexandra Kollontai and Emma Goldmann, but was not faced up to by the majority of socialists of the day, who 'happened' to be men.

Although the question of confining roles, which we are all conditioned to play, was raised by anarchists it was usually on an abstract level or as it applied to men.

When anarchists are asked what they want, they usually reply with a long list of what they don't want. This may appear negative, but it is based upon the fact that we live in and are influenced by an authoritarian society, and so visions of life free from shackles can only be speculative. There can be no programme or blueprint of what life will be like. Which is surely what makes anarchist society attractive. The possibility of CREATING history, of fulfilling ourselves as social individuals and not living as cogs for our wealth to be stolen.

But of course there are guidelines and directions. We do believe in spontaneity, but not in the sense of things falling out of the sky, but in the sense of individuals, groups, society freely choosing to take certain directions, unrestrained by promises of false rewards or by threats of punishment.

Here are some of the characteristics which we would argue an anarchist society would have:

1. It is fundamental that all relationships (work, social, sexual etc.) should be based on the principle of voluntary association, with people coming together because they want to, and as important, withdrawing when they want to.

2. Decision-making to be based as much as possible on direct democracy. If due to numbers, time, distance, etc., delegates are elected, they must be subject to instant recall and posts be rotated as often as possible or necessary.

3. The nature of work itself would be changed. Production would be for the needs of the community, as it decided through its producer and consumer collectives. Some modern technology and a degree of specialisation would make work less tedious and time consuming, but would be discarded where it led to alienation and/or pollution. Wages would be abolished and distribution of resources based on the maxim - from each according to their ability, to each according to their need.

4. Sexual relationships, without losing their intimacy, would shed their possessive traits and people remain partners or monogamous for as long as they wished, no external pressure being brought to bear (unfortunately other than centuries old conditioning).

5. Education would become learning and shed its institutional framework. Much of work, losing its alienation, would become a way of learning, as would indeed life itself. Other learning resources and facilities would open for use by old and young alike, they as a community creating such resources in the first place. Children would be brought up collectively and share experiences with their peers and adults in a more total environment.

6. Anti-social behaviour would be treated by the community as a whole. With property and authority abolished many of today's typical crimes such as theft and violence will no longer be widespread. It is obvious that prisons, as rehabilitative measures, are counterproductive.

Hopefully these characteristics will sow a few seeds in the readers speculative mind. We don't want (this has been one of our 'failings' throughout history) to give you the answers. We fight against governments because they claim to have all the answers, and in fact punish us for daring to solve the problems we face.

We are anarchists because we want to create a society which will allow us to BEGIN to answer the problems of life — violence, exploitation, depression, anxiety, — and leave behind a society which creates them and then glosses over them.

NOW, HOW?

Well for starters the means we use should reflect as much as possible the ends we hope to achieve. This applies to all, because as can be seen from marxist and nationalist groups, their aims of a marxist or nationalist state are reflected in their hierarchical organisation, with its central committee making decisions for the members to carry out, and in their methods of struggle, with their standing in bourgeois elections, and instances of civilian bombings.

Once again the slip into what not to do. To some extent we all have authoritarian/obedience traits, but it is very important to make our efforts at change as consciously anarchist as possible. And this brings our actions and ideas into 2 fronts.

Firstly that of defending ourselves and others from the everyday onslaught of repression, sectarianism, boredom, sexism, etc., which are the trademarks of government and capitalism in N. Ireland.

And here it is easy to get caught up in the reformism of trade unionism in defending the rights at the workplace; the nationalism of wanting the Brits out without also a challenge to government per se; the reformism of equal rights for women and homosexuals and lesbians, rather than a critique of sex roles and possessiveness; the struggle against H-Block, without pointing out that all prisons are the weapon of the ruling class.

The 2nd front is that of creating liberated zones of the mind, of areas, and of relations with each other. This is done through learning, both by yourself and others; keeping the authorities at bay, by either force (as happened in the early 70s)

or by alternatives (work coops - media, music etc.); and trying to establish work and social relations on an equal and voluntary basis.

Ideally there should be a synthesis of the two fronts, as it is impossible to create alternatives within a hostile environment, and disillusioning to resist only to create new shackles, whether they be the trade union bureaucracy or our own police force.

Our policies must stem from the reality we live in. We are not utopian, nor are we realists in that we want to change reality. We are anarchists.

Liz Lagura was released 4 weeks ago from Armagh prison after spending 2 months (on the protest) for picketing the prison. Asked about the conditions inside she referred to the deterioration in health as the most worrying.

There has been only one change of clothing (not underwear) and blanket since February 7th so there have been many infections. A few girls have had white discharges and she herself had cystitis — an infection of the urine. Many girls have contracted psoriasis, a nervous disease causing an irritating skin rash. At least one girl, Marie Mc Clennaghan, has an ulcer and cannot eat the cold greasy prison food, and so lives on bread and jam.

Dr. Cole, the prison doctor, is described by Liz as a sadist. For her cystitis she was given anti-biotics and was not examined. The girls are usually given aspirin, pain-killers, and valium and are rarely examined. With heavy periods, which are common, he just laughs, said Liz, and says its all in the mind.

On the day of printing we attended a press conference by Margaretta D'Arcy who spent 3 months in Armagh after being arrested with Liz. Words seem inadequate to describe the hunger and intimidation the young women suffer inside.

Also for Margaretta, coming out was like going from one hell to another, as Miriam Daly, who was assassinated for her work for the prisoners, was a close friend of hers and she often stayed in the household of Ann-Marie Mc Donnell who was shot in the head with a rubber bullet at the weekend.

Pauline Mc Laughlin was sentenced when she was 16 years old on the basis of a signed confession, but the girl can not read or write. She was 9½ stone when she joined the protest for political status 3 years ago, but because she couldn't eat the prison food she lost weight rapidly reaching 5 stone on one occasion.

Dr. Cole put her on the sick and she was removed to B wing where she received food parcels. On reaching 6 stone again, she was pronounced fit for work, which she refused to do, so was taken back to the protesting wing. Her health deteriorated again and the vicious circle repeated itself several times. At one stage Dr Cole made a tape recording in her presence saying that she would die if she did not come off the protest, that he would not take responsibility, and could not be sued if she did.

In March she came off the protest because of ill health, but was placed in a locked cell all day and received no medical attention. About 3 weeks ago she was rushed to Musgrave Park Hospital because of dehydration due to constant vomiting. She was briefly taken to the City Hospital coronary ward but then returned to Musgrave and within a few days sent back to Armagh prison.

cont. from P.1... MARTIN MEEHAN

not surprising, therefore, that Sinn Fein were initially hesitant about throwing their full weight behind Meehan. Some of the men on the blanket were wanting to escalate the issue by the same means as Meehan, in a last ditch attempt to gain political status. Some judged it to be a premature action without the necessary ground-work and back-up needed outside the prisons.

As Meehan approached death things started to warm up. Many demonstrations with a fair degree of support, combined with serious rioting in some Catholic ghettos.

Fortunately Meehan and Mullan ended their strikes, much to the relief of some. The full extent of public support or the eventual outcome will not be known after all.

However, because of the publicity given to their case, the courts may think twice about finding them guilty on appeal....many eyes will be watching them.

But this is not to say that everyone in jail must be guilty because they haven't gone on hunger-strike to prove their innocence.

The Diplock courts have convicted people on even less evidence than that against Meehan and Mullan. But it takes a certain set of circumstances and a certain type of person to go on hunger-strike to prove their innocence. Many people in Ireland's history have died in the process.

The courts and prisons are used as a weapon by the state--any state--to preserve the interests of the few at the expense of the many. People in prison, whether consciously or sub-consciously, rebel against the system which daily exploits them and uses them.

All prisoners are political; all prisoners should be released.

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All prisoners are political; all prisoners should be released.

I think it's too late
for your law and order,
too many bloodstained treaties

Too many people thrown in your cold cells
for us to believe
your architects
could ever build a hospital.

I think too many soldiers boots have found
a home
in too many Catholic groins,
too many Airey Neaves
have shouted too many odds,
too many parliaments
have done fuck all.

I think you shouted once too often
across some lightless alley
Catholics need not apply
Niggers go home
Hello Freak

And now you hold your Christmas parliament
swagger like peacocks
proclaim new ideals
ask for peace in the world,
expect us to believe you now

Not this time
Camels are extinct
You broke their backs.

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You broke their backs.

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Windscale

WINDSCALE nuclear reprocessing plant (where nuclear wastes go to sift out that which can be re-used and that which must be dumped) lies just across the sea in Cumbria. It has been leaking deadly wastes for the past 8 years! For the past 8 years, we've had an out-pouring of hypocritical lies from Sir John Hill and cohorts about how safe it all is. Now they've been found out once again. But the British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. escape prosecution, because as the govt. nuclear installations inspectorate say.... "they did such a good job at putting matters right"after 8 years of contamination by wastes that will be deadly for centuries!!!

Is it any wonder that the Irish Sea is the most radio-active sea in the world? It just gets worse and worse. Now we know why the Dept. of the Environment have been out monitoring radiation levels along the Antrim coast....and doing so during turbulent tides to give a more dispersed reading hence a lower radiation rating. Very clever.

Anti-internment weekend

The weekend of August 9th saw an increase in protest against the RUC and British Army, and a determination on their part to stamp out all resistance. Their lead and rubber bullets left 2 young people dead and another 2 seriously injured, one of these being 16 year old Ann Marie Mc Donnell. Along with her mother, she was active in support of the Armagh prisoners.

On Sat. night she had her skull fractured by a rubber bullet fired at close range. The car taking her to hospital was stopped by a British army patrol, checked and waved on, but only to be stopped 20 yards further on by another patrol, one of whose members fired a live round through the window above Ann-Marie's head.

According to her sister this caused a relapse in Ann-Marie who had to undergo a 7 hour operation in the Royal, where she now remains in the intensive care unit.

As in its treatment of the prisoners, the British state is prepared to kill those who protest either peacefully or go so far as to throw a stone.

This letter is a reply to enquiries about the poem.

I will try to explain what I was trying to say in the two poems I sent you.

In 'Late', the Christmas Parliament is very much a personal image. I don't like Christmas myself, I always associate it with commercialism and with an ideal gone sadly wrong. Also, I went to an all-boys catholic school, something for a time which really fucked up my mind, and every Christmas all the priests came up with loads of shit about the importance of Christmas and its religious significance, while at the same time trying to sell tickets for the Christmas parents evening--so I never really liked Christmas.

Another thing I don't like is governments mainly because they tell lies and blow peoples minds with propaganda etc.. But that's beside the point. To really explain this image I will start by saying that it was conceived about 18 months ago when the catholic school education had really screwed me up. I was confused and filled with hate. I hate where I was living, the school, the teachers, the pupils (especially the pupils) and it was then that the image came; Mr. Callaghan patting babies on the head, cuddling his wife affectionately, supersocialist with his wife and children gathering around the Christmas tree for some family bliss, what life is all about, what labour stands for, what parliament is all about! It made me spew then, it makes me spew now, this supposed connection between the government and the Family Scene has always riled me and that is what the image is all about. Now I realise that I should have made it clearer in the poem but as I said, it's a personal image, more or less put in for my own satisfaction..

The other query is easier to clear up. 'You've taken away love' means what it says; governments, businessmen, men of the world who know how hard it is because they made it that way, to avoid being swindled they became swindlers, people like this have turned the world into what it is today, loveless, hopeless. They are incapable of love, only interested in money, not caring about anyone else (manufacturing guns, bombs for their own profit). Since they rule the world they are the ones who tell us how to live, they tell us not to be naive, it's a hard world and all that crap, they usually beat any emotional weakness out of someone before they've left school, through the teachers, by teaching them competitive spirit, to fight their way to the top and so on.

'You won't let us do that here' again refers back to school where I learn't really fast what I was supposed to believe in, how I was supposed to live, and that anyone who failed to conform to these standards was branded a freak. When you're a freak you have to stand there and take it, if you try and do anything about it they always get you down one way or another. The world they've created isn't worth living in but if you try and kill yourself, they stop you and put you in an asylum. They can put you in prison for 30 years but they won't let you kill yourself rather than spend the rest of your life there; they can execute you but they forbid you from killing yourself, that's a sin!

Of course I agree they let people die in Ireland, anywhere, they don't give a shit about life, that's why they build prisons in the first place, that's why they build bombs, have wars.

I don't know if I've explained very well but, that is what I was trying to get across in the poem.

Now I'd like to ask you something. It's a minor point really but one that I'd like to clear up for myself. What is your attitude to violence, do you believe in violent revolution? Personally I do not simply because I think we would be sinking to their level by using violence against them. But then again I've had it pretty easy, I was born into a middle-class family, and have never experienced their antagonism to such an extent that I'd want violent rebellion, I've never had to work 6 hours a day to make money for them at a boring job, so it's hard for me to really judge. Maybe you could give me your opinions on the subject.

S.B. (Liverpool).

VIDEO ON PRISON PROTEST: On Sat. 23rd August there's the first showing of a new one-hour, colour video on Armagh and H-Blick - interviews with ex-prisoners and relatives - 10.30am, 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm, at Just Books, 7 Whitewash St., Smithfield.

GOING ELECTRIC

The Southern Irish government have this plot hatching in their heads and policies: the British gov. are totally into it as well: and certain state corporations - like the NIES - are central and vital to its working ... and its so simple ... the Northern state generates as much electricity as possible by whatever means, whether oil or nuclear, which it then links into the British grid and into the south ... the south develops its natural gas which it sends northwards while at the same time feeding Dublin with British gas; and the British get northern electricity for sending gas to the south of Ireland. Meanwhile the EEC showers funds everywhere to see such an emerging centralised, yet diverse, energy system which can cross national boundaries. A very clever plot for industrialists and corporation businessmen and eurocrats who see energy as money ... not so good for the likes of me or me.

What has been happening in the north since the early 70s is that the NIES has become central to the northern energy plans - seemingly unlimited funds granted by successive British gov. big investments. Kilroot was planned as an exclusively oil based producer of electricity, and wild talk of the next station in the north being nuclear, then the oil panic, the slowing down of the mad pace of so called industrial development - suddenly it became clear that Kilroot was not needed as had been thought, that the huge amounts of electricity (steadily getting dearer) were not needed by the northern economy. But that didn't matter - its expansion went ahead, the British gov. continuing to put up the millions or write off the loans, prices kept going up for electricity ... but the corporation leaders (Gray and Gaston) were delighted - real power-freaks in every sense.

Despite the lack of demand for energy the NIES kept their expansion going - the aim had always been to sell it to the South (the provos keep blowing up the cross border lines) and this is what is intended, with the additional advantage of linking into the Brit grid as well ... that way 'demand' becomes unlimited. The NIES sent preliminary plans to the Brit Nuclear Inspectorate as early as 1976 for the construction of a nuclear reactor in the North and in the same year they started running propaganda classes outlining the benefits. They had even picked a site to be started after the oil-electricity station at Kilroot was fully completed in 1980-1, St. Johns Point in Dundrum. The whole scheme was knocked in the head in 1976 by a gov. inquiry/report which said the demand was not there. So it was shelved. But now the plans to artificially create that demand are out - a link to the south and to Britain - a virtual unlimited 'market' for N.I. electricity. And again the possibility of nuclear power in the north is being considered ... as the price of oil zooms up, the costly error in choosing this as the fuel for Kilroot is causing many problems and the British government a fortune ... they tried to change part of Kilroot to coal, and have axed another part of the earlier expansion plans. Oil is too expensive. Just maybe they are considering a conversion of Kilroot to nuclear. Not as crazy as it might seem - all its needs is a nuclear core and a host of ancillary equipment ... everything else is there. (Failing that, and assuming plenty of effective opposition from the nearby population of Belfast, Larne and Carrick to the idea of a nuclear Kilroot, they may revert to their original idea of Dundrum, Co Down).

Nuclear or not, all finances, all aid was to go to electricity generation. And just for good measure, the NIES and the British gov. have joined forces to effectively destroy their only serious competitor - the Gas industry.

Gas production in the north is based on an expensive oil-

based fuel - Napthe. It is becoming very uneconomical - it needs a link up with cheap North Sea gas to survive. In July 79 the Brit gov. said no! - and the gas industry had to go ... and the commerce minister Giles Shaw falsified figures to 'prove' that a north sea link up for N.I. gas was too expensive and would cost more than closure and conversion. (Blatantly untrue as amongst other things, the EEC would help finance it, and the British gas corporation is making huge profits every year, and the gov. is taking £100m of these profits in the next 4 years to pay for armaments ... a mere £25m of these profits and a North Sea link-up is sufficient to save the gas industry ... but the British government are not interested. The role for the N.I. state is ELECTRICITY and that's what gets the funding and that's why the gas industry is killed off. No matter that the gas users are being ripped off and victims of gov. blunders and policies - the competitor to the all-electric madness must be wiped out. And that's exactly what's going on. (Gaston the no.2 in the NIES hierarchy, was suggesting this policy as early as 1977 ... it didn't take the new British gov. long to set about doing it)

Meanwhile and in return for the Northern electricity, the South exchanges gas from the Kinsale field. Ironically enough, if Carnsore is not built soon the £1 billion saved through the importation of Northern (nuclear?) energy will help develop the gas industry. All so very clever and so callous.

The all-electric Northern state brings with it many problems for those of us who live here. More and more we are forced to turn electric - and despite its wasteful nature, despite the price, despite our total lack of decision-making in its production - all we get is huge bills, and the promise of new meters after 1981 which makes it very difficult to fiddle. Despite the needless investment and wastage at Kilroot, the subsidy to industry, but not the likes of you or me, and despite the blunders in debt collection made by the NIES in the early 70s, that bastion of socialism - Roy Mason - so eagerly brought electric debts under the payment of debt Act ... now they can steal your money, even your supplementary benefits! And still they propagandise with the timeless lies that the reason why electric prices are so high and rising so often (3 times this year so far and 25% higher than in Britain) is because of bad debt - nothing whatsoever to do with the blundering of their mad schemes.

So that's why the gas industry, seen as a competitor, is killed off; that's why Colley is considering Cork gas to the North, why the British may send gas to the South, why the North becomes an electric socket and why the EEC thinks its all great.

A British government trying to build one new nuclear station every year, prepared to accept US-NATO cruise missiles, and eager to spend millions on updating the useless Polaris is surely capable of anything - it is they who provide the money for Kilroot and it is they who decide to make it go nuclear.

And Carnsore? It hasn't been scrapped - far from it. Colley now talks about the need to slow it up and cost it properly, now that 'industrial development' can't follow their plans. The Confederation of Irish Industry (the employers) are more blunt ... 'planning for a nuclear option should proceed', (1980).

In July, 25,000 people made their way to Lisdoonvarna to occupy a large bit of County Clare to consume E-L-Harris plus others.....£10 a go for those who didn't find a way past security. The music was great, reported the media.....but the facilities left much to be desired. A handful of toilets, only rip-off tasteless food on sale, and the surrounding villages and country-side left looking like a huge rubbish tip. "It'll be bigger next year" threatened the entrepreneurs, looking for a tourist grant to increase their profits. And 15,000 people in Dublin paid to hear Bob Marley praise the dictator, advertise ganja, and express his solidarity with the poor as he made his way back to the Gresham by chauffeur-driven limousine. Ballicksodare in Sligo... another week-end of guinness and profits.

'The Police'---thousands of people ripped-off because the technical media-hype failed, yet again, to reproduce in real life.Van Morrison in Belfast---pay your money to endure the hypocrisy of the drug squad.

But there are still good festivals, like Carnsore. Success depends, not on lining up the super-stars to perform, but on people turning up to contribute whatever THEY have got to offer. NO passive consumption, but a free peoples' festival with everyone united (however tenuously) in the common aim of implementing alternatives to a nuclear society. Carnsore's success depends on people getting involved, NOT sitting around getting drunk, complaining, seeking ways to rip-off..... just leaching on the energies of others. Carnsore is a potential---trying to organise with others is the way to CHANGE things!

There was also the Rock the H-Block open air concert by the Pop Group, Au Pairs and competent local groups. And this weekend there's a 2-night Punk and New Wave Festival at the Ulster Hall organised by Good Vibes.

really ours?

So the grand old Opera House, another monument to bourgeoisie ideology, is to re-open after a false start...when some 'uncouth lout' set it alight last year. But open its doors to whom? Well...not for the likes of you or me...

The workers have done a magnificent job of renovating the building, with the Arts Council spending millions in the process. However I doubt if the workers will ever get a say on what goes on in it, or will ever set foot in it again. Sheer spectacle for the middle classes.

The forthcoming events, bolstered by huge subsidies of our money, reflect their culture, to reinforce their position, their ideas.... never challenging or upsetting the power they exert over us.

Just watch the clientele on opening night...not a worker in sight.

radical events

These articles are written about the Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast by people living in that community. They describe the experiences and events of that community. The article "Where we live" first appeared in Scarlet Woman and "Lower Ormeau Exposed by R.U.C." is a supplement to Outta Control, paper of the Belfast Anarchist Collective available from Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast

WHERE WE LIVE..

This area is one of the smallest Catholic ghettos in Belfast. It consists of ten existing streets surrounded by Protestant housing and business and the river Lagan. Many of the houses do not have bathrooms, some do not have running hot water. They are damp and too small for the families who live in them. Many people are on drugs, whether valium, sixty fags a day or drowning ones thoughts in alcohol. Some women are battered by their husbands, one woman died a couple of months ago from a brain haemorrhage after she had been stabbed repeatedly. Families are suffering the effects of the Payment for Debt Act — the Electricity Board comes armed with two policemen at nine o'clock at night, to turn off a family's supply of electricity because they can't afford to pay for it — these problems are common to all working class areas in Belfast, but where this area really stands out from the others is in its accessibility to loyalist assassins.

We must have one of the highest sectarian murder rates in the North of Ireland. Over fifty people have been shot or blown up and considering the size of the area that is one hell of a lot. There is even a case of local people identifying an assassin in court and him being let off on evidence made by a minister to the contrary. Bombs have been left outside pubs and blown people inside to bits—statistics in English papers or on the television but an horrific reality for anybody living in the thick of it. The straight media and the left papers tend to concentrate on what the IRA or the Brits are currently doing, they neglect those areas suffering sectarian attacks and the vindictiveness of those attacks—if its Catholic and it moves shoot it.

It is difficult to express the fear and hysteria when someone is assassinated. Instantly, you want to do something to defend yourself and indeed this was tried. Vigilante patrols were set up but they found that they were continually being hassled by the British Army. There is, after all, only one police force and the Brits are here to normalise the situation so that they can operate: they will undermine all attempts by Catholics to defend their own areas. The choice is simple—acceptance of a force partial to knocking off a few tags or hoping that you are not in the wrong place at the wrong time. People do not walk around late at night: they take a taxi 500 yards down the road to various social clubs, such is the fear. Interesting parallels were drawn in discussion with the fear of women in Yorkshire to the ripper and the same attitudes to "cleansing" society of prostitution, or here, republicanism.

The power of the British Army is felt even when they are not physically patrolling the streets. Regiments change on average every three to five months and at one time, house searches and interrogation was carried out whenever a new regiment settled in. Searching can mean anything from the Oxford dictionary definition to ripping up floor coverings and floorboards, poking holes in the plaster of walls and ceilings, doors, panelling, furniture and if you're not looking, stealing anything worth having. They do

maintain what they call 'a low profile' these days, but we are still stopped at any time of the day or night— name, address, date of birth, where are you coming from, where are you going,— taken down to be interrogated further in the city centre barracks or up to Castlereagh for the torture routine. The Brits think of their own protection first and not that of the people living here. There has been little success in pressurising them to restore lighting to the streets or put up barricades to discourage sectarian attack until it is much too late. We have experienced blanket searches of the area, with one exit and one entrance and being searched on both occasions, we have seen twelve foot screens going up at the end of our streets when the Orange bands are parading during their silly season. At that time it is virtually impossible to get out even if you wanted to mingle with the hundreds of police and soldiers on the other side.

One of the other decisions made by the State in the late sixties, early seventies, is still having repercussions on peoples lives today. That decision was a proposed ring road.

The ring road was planned to carve up the inner city. All the areas it passed through were poor and working class. Religion did not come into it, the land was cheaper and a lot easier to disturb than that with industry on it. Good fast road communications were wanted between Belfast and Larne so that big international companies like Michelin, ICI and Ford and local firms like Mackies could ship their goods to Britain and overseas quicker. Easy access to Belfast city centre would attract people living in districts like Craigavon—a new city, many people from Belfast received grants and went to live there— to do their shopping.

There was resistance. Meetings were held and community associations, tenants associations and lots of local people attended. They picketed, protested and blocked the roads.

Remaining Protestants moved out. People tried to sell their homes for the highest price before the area was vested. Several things happened. The shortage of housing for Catholics and the possibility of a "safe" place to live meant that more Catholics moved into the area. Many squatted in the houses. (Squatting was a very common practice all over Belfast). The British Army also moved in on the empty houses. Generally they were amongst the first to know about them. They called them 'derelicts' which was what they were after they had searched for weapons. Because nobody lived in these houses they were not obliged to leave details of the search or of the terms of compensation. Local scrap merchants also moved in for the kill to make a few quid out of stripping the houses of lead piping, copper tanks and electric wires. The end result was a bricked up house. The disease spread. Anybody who was at all mobile wanted to get out. Houses on either side suffered dampness, fungi and green slime down connecting walls, blocked sewerage and rats.

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LOWER ORMEAU EXPOSED BY R.U.C.

OUTTA CONTROL SUPPLEMENT

On 12.30a.m. Thursday July 24th., Michael Mc Cartan (16) was shot dead near his home in Artana St. in the Lower Ormeau District of Belfast.

He and 3 of his friends were daubing a hoarding with the word 'provos' with paint found nearby when an police-car pulled up near them. A policeman in plain clothes got out. The youths immediately ran off, leaving Michael. The policeman shot him in the stomach without warning....killing him. The police-man got back into the car and drove off. A couple of minutes later an ordinary police land-rover appeared on the scene 'to take over'.

ANSWERING BACK

It was the last straw as far as the people of the Lower Ormeau were concerned. The following day the people of the area blocked the Ormeau Rd. holding placards reading... 'THE RUC MURDERED MICHAEL McCARTAN'...For the next 5 nights there was rioting, hijacking and burning of vehicles by the young people of the area... something that hasn't happened in years. Extreme measures from an otherwise quiet area. So why did this killing cause such an outrage?



BLATANT LIES

After the killing, the RUC issued statements claiming that Michael McCartan ran away when the police approached... they called to him to halt,he turned round and pointed a paint-brush at the police-man who (thinking it was a gun) shot him dead. They also claimed that the police were under a lot of pressure that day... a gun-man had been seen in the area...there had been serious rioting...and a blast-bomb had been thrown at them. They deliberately gave the impression that these incidents all occurred in the area where Michael was killed. But the truth is different.....

The Lower Ormeau has been 'quiet' for years.... no attacks on the security forces... no rioting... not known as an area where gunmen operated....not regarded as a militant republican area. To the people who live there, the RUC statement was just a pack of lies. In order to 'excuse' their murder, they concocted a statement for the general public... knowing they would never be given a chance to find out the truth. The TV and press tell the RUC side of the story, rarely giving much credence to eye-witness accounts of people in the vicinity.

THE AREA

The Lower Ormeau is mainly a Catholic ghetto. It lies above the catholic 'Markets', with 'The Pass'--a hardline Protestant area lying in between. It consists of a series of streets branching off the main Ormeau Road. One quarter of the houses in the area have been demolished to make way for the notorious ring-road. The rest of the houses reflect the general working-class housing situation in Belfast....most of them lack a bathroom and are in immediate need of repair....everything is dilapidated with abandoned burnt out shells of factories. In one of the streets--Balfour Ave.--the residents have to contend with giant sewer pipes being laid outside their front doors. Rehabilitation work has been going on but at a snail's pace. There are NO social amenities in the area which people can use although right in the middle of it all is a huge cricket ground complete with a grand social club.

IT IS USED EXCLUSIVELY BY PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA. For the last 6 years, the City Council have promised to build a community centre, but this has yet to reach the final planning stage.....they hope that if they delay long enough it will be abandoned due to the 'cuts' with little local opposition. 'What you haven't got, you won't miss'.

JOBS

Industry in the area is practically nil except for a potato packaging factory in the middle of Cooke Street which treats the rest of the street as an extension to their premises. They conveniently dump crates of spuds and derelict cars around the street and block it with their heavy lorries which knock down street lighting, destroy the foot paths and are a continual danger to the playing children. A large price to pay for a few local jobs. And all that from the so-called Fane Valley CO- OPERATIVE! which does not co-operate with the local people who have to live there. The small handy shops have been squeezed out of the area by the blight of "redevelopment" and because of lack of trade. They will never appear again.

ASSASSINATIONS

Throughout the 'troubles' it has suffered more than most areas, at the hands of the maurauding sectarian assassins, always out for an easy target. The area is particularly vulnerable as it gives easy access and a quick getaway to cars patrolling up and down that part of the road looking for someone--anyone--to shoot. The most infamous incident was the no-warning bombing of the Rose and Crown bar, killing four people and injuring many more. Michael's father was one of those badly injured. And within the last 6 months, 2 men from the Lower Ormeau were slaughtered by sectarian assassins. One was Michael's uncle.

PLAYING DEAD

Assassination attempts, pub bombings, and killings have been a regular occurrence in the area during the height of sectarian violence (1974-76). They have never completely stopped, but now they are less frequent. The residents have remained quiet, perhaps in the hope that the assassinations would disappear if the area appeared not too militant. Not so long ago even the Lord Mayor (complete with chain!) was invited to walk ceremoniously round the streets judging the wall murals in the "Spruce Up Competition". This was engineered by the 'volunteers' the government agencies throw in every summer in a feeble and pathetic attempt to improve the kids' holidays in an area permanently neglected of things for the children to do. In the quest for respectability, the people conveniently forgot that the Lord Mayors, past and no doubt future operated vicious discrimination in housing and jobs and are responsible for the state of the area. During Orange parades (mainly June-August) the streets are sealed off, and no-one is allowed to leave the area while they pass by at the top of every street. Despite loud, provocative and aggressive playing of the most extreme orange songs, they are allowed to pass unchallenged. With the increased presence of the British Army and the RUC patrols perhaps people felt this might also deter assassins. Alas this has not happened....people are regular targets; sometimes it does get reported to the police, sometimes not (for fear of the RUC investigating the person with an interrogation to find out why an attempt was made...maybe they are in a political group and want no more hassle from the RUC...). When the RUC--the so-called 'security forces' -- start killing people, that was the last straw.

S.S.R.U.C.

The RUC had been filtering back into the area, patrolling the streets in land-rovers and gaining confidence for foot-patrols. This killing is a set-back in their attempt at gaining a foot-hold in the area, and in creating good community relations. However, they are determined not to loose any ground gained, no matter what. The young people of the area, angered at the shooting of their mate, and with nothing else being done about it, rioted. During the rioting, the RUC saturated the area, heavily armed, intimidating residents, and arresting 9 peoplesome of them being dragged out of their homes. (To date, one person has received 9 months). In the early hours of the morning, police land-rovers were seen cruising the area with about 20 Brit snatch squaddies running behind wearing plimsolls hoping to scoop up anyone around and not making too much clatter in the process!

The local power figures, including SDLP councillor Alaister McDonnell and local priest Fr. Newbery (hoping to ease tension, and gain a bit of credibility and voted in the process) met the Chief Constableover a cup of coffee, he politely told them to piss-off. If the people are waiting for their local representatives to achieve justice, they have a long wait. A. McDonnell has never given two farts for the area, except at voting time and then it's the usual string of broken promises. The priest wouldn't even let his youth club (the only building available in the area) be used for a general meeting about the situation...(he doesn't let the tenants assoc. meet there either!)...the public meeting had to be held on waste ground. They talk to the press about "the sinister elements exploiting the situation" and went on to imply that the "Release Martin Meehan Campaign" was in some way responsible for young Michaels murder. The politicians and the other power figures are the sinister elements, they use the opportunity to do deals behind our backs for their benefit.

JUSTICE

But the people are determined to get some kind of justice...preferably to get the RUC-man who shot Michael, suspended and up on a murder charge. A lot of people from many different parts of Ulster, have tried to get 'justice' from the RUC,...but with little success. Perhaps with regular road-blocks, petitions, and an independent tribunal to get publicity, just maybe the RUC will be forced to admit their mistake and Michaels innocence.

MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE

The people who now live in the area are almost a different community that existed 10 years ago. Many people were the emigres and spill-overs from the Markets, Falls or Pass Short Strand areas of Belfast, forced to leave because of shortage of housing and others intimidated out of other areas. This is an area without our grannies or granpas or close relatives living near us who could be relied on for help and support. Perhaps now after living together for 10 years we begin to feel ourselves as a community relying on each other. And perhaps Michael McCartan symbolised the fruition of our community, a child belonging not only to his family, but a child protected by all the people of the area.



IT'S UP TO US!

And more importantly the killing should act as a catalysis for EVERYBODY to wake up to what is happening in the community to the wider issues involved. It is no good kidding ourselves that the wee man or woman in the Housing Executive or our "kind, thoughtful" Alliance and SDLP representatives can solve the problems of this community. However secure and efficient their offices may make us feel they are as much caught up in the mesh of a society geared to making high amounts of money for the privileged few, out of the hard work of us, the working people of Belfast.

We are forever having public meetings to discuss various solutions, most of us don't turn up any longer to elect people, often the same people onto never ending committees, to grapple with the vast social and economic wretchedness in this community. When we elect people to committees as potential leaders we encourage ourselves to lose sight of our own insights and power. We project our potential qualities onto others instead of developing them in ourselves. We remove the problem from ourselves. Until we grasp that the government, itself, sold out to the multi-national firms, will only give us money if it sees that money multiplying or as part of its welfare programme which keeps the hardship we have to suffer, bearable, and puts off the day when we will rise up and control our own lives.

The area has more than its fair share of people prepared to contribute towards a better community (Some unfortunately finding themselves doing a spell in Castlereagh, or worst still, Armagh or the Kesh) There are others whose dignity has been crushed by continual unemployment, large families living in cramped conditions, and bad housing whose children run wild with nothing better to do than create havoc and destruction. We should help them regain that dignity by lending a hand and support. There are people in the area who only want to see the dark side, who see only decay, who don't want the area to live and who exploit the weakest. They use the opportunity to seek profit for themselves at the expense of the whole community. We should confront these people who are destroying our community and making it a hell for the people living here.

Everybody should play a part in deciding and creating the community they want their children to live in, and not to moan about it and rely on others to get things done.

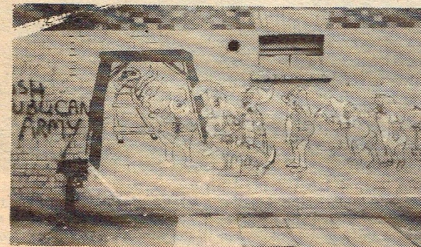


Some of Michael McCartan's Friends

Continued from front page

The legacy today is that many of the streets are destroyed. An area of rubble and desolation. They are still going to build the road, in a more disguised form and have promised to squeeze in as many houses into the remaining area as possible! But if there is a chance of getting something people will go for that chance. Members of the Housing Executive can come to local meetings and indulge themselves. They produce a carrot, an improvement and although people know that the bureaucracy has dictated the terms all along, after all these years they feel that they have been given 'something'. The majority has been convinced. QED.

Social life is restricted to three pubs and bingo. There is nothing for older children. Right in the middle of the area is a cricket ground where supporters roll up in their mercedes and rolls to enjoy either the cricket or the rugby season. We did get in once and protest that we should have access to some of the ground, after all it takes up to a third of the area up, maybe even one half. It was all a bit of a joke when you consider what the authorities really did for children in this area. They took one street of bricked up houses, ripped up the pavements and tarmacked it level, put 2 signs up "No Entry" and called it a playstreet. What they overlooked was that the danger was the bricked up houses, not the cars! A bricked up house is a great place to play if you are a child and not aware of the dangers. Every summer for two months, the authorities would throw in a couple of volunteers, English people over to do their bit for the natives. They organised playbuses once a fortnight and a bus trip to greener pastures for the lucky ones. They painted the streets and covered all the



slogans with Walt Disney scenes. The river Lagan is also a death trap. Several children have been drowned because the fencing has been neglected. It is a filthy river anyway. Belfast's sewerage system overflows into it, being so old and the Blackstaff, reputed to be the most polluted river in Western Europe, joins the Lagan in our area. It runs under Belfast and all the industries use it to dispose of toxic waste.

The Catholic Church with the aid of a grant from local government built a playschool. All the kids go to it. Even for those amongst us who are lapsed Protestants or who have rejected Catholicism, this playschool is a welcome sight, such is the deprivation. Nearly all the children go to Catholic schools only one of which is mixed primary (boys/girls). Some children do go to the State primary school which being between the University catchment area and several working class areas has a racial mix as well as a social and religious one. Catholic parents who want

their children brought up in the religion tend to take their children away from the state school system. A lot of time is devoted to preparing 5-7 year olds for Holy Communion which is obviously not done in the state schools. The Catholic church advertises the Billings method and conducts classes although the existence of a Health Centre on the main road has undermined them with many women going there for the pill. There are many large families interrelated with other large families and redevelopment has not destroyed the extended family completely—the latter is probably quite rare in European cities these days. Many children are brought up by their grandparents or aunts, particularly if a father is away a lot, separated, dead or in prison.

Officially unemployment must be as high as 40%. Very few school leavers are lucky to get jobs. Women work in low paid, non unionised jobs, for 70p an hour to supplement the family income.

The early seventies was a time of grass roots rebellion on many issues, not just civil rights. People were beginning to question all sorts of issues which affected them in their day to day life. We have tried to show how people tackled those problems, they did meet and discuss what to do, they did come out and block main roads, they did refuse to pay their rates. However, the State moved in. Field Officers arrived from the Community Relations Commission, various agents from the City Council were assigned to set up committees with acceptable constitutions and the more "responsible" citizens on them if possible. It was impressed upon us that committees were the best way of getting things done: their structure gave us the illusion of power to change circumstances through negotiation and small concessions were made from time to time to keep the illusion credible. Nothing ever came of it. We have no say in what goes on around us. We are not apathetic. We have been ripped off and sold out and crushed under the heavy boot of the State and its Army. Very few people go along to public meetings now to elect people (often the same people who make a good speech to take the bad look away) onto never ending committees grappling with the social and economic wretchedness in this community. Electing people onto these committees lulled people into a false sense of something being done — we lost sight of our own imagination and power and projected our potential for change onto others instead of developing them in ourselves. We removed the problem from ourselves.

Everybody in this area has suffered from the repressive nature of the State: its laws pervade every aspect of our lives. This is not exclusive to Catholic working class areas. All the problems we have written about exist in Protestant areas, some like the consequences of the Payment for Debt Act to a much greater degree. The exception is of course the role of the British Army and the RUC and the political attitudes of the people towards them.



outta control

News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective

OUTTA CONTROL ... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches ... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of FREE association and self-management. This paper comes out every 3-4 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.



'It's the rich what gets the pleasure, it's the poor what gets the blame' ran the refrain of a 19th. century music hall song. That piece of social commentary is as relevant to-day as it was when the lines were penned during the reign of John Brown's friend Queen Victoria. This 'them and us' attitude is perhaps best exemplified by the establishments treatment of their own when they appear in court.

Lord Oaksey, chairman of Malmesbury magistrates, former jockey, and star presenter of ITV's racing coverage,.....knew where his duty lay when the Honorable Sarah Ponsonby appeared before him. She was charged with the possession of 292 cannabis plants found growing

on her Wiltshire home. After pleading guilty, she was fined a desultory £110 (less than 40p. per plant), for possessing resin, the plants, and allowing her home to be used for smoking same.

The leniency of the fines may have less to do with Oaksey's view on hash, than the fact that Princess Margaret and her gardener friend Roddy Llewellyn, were frequent guests at the estate. Could Maggie be the first royal 'dope fiend'? If the fines were taken as a precedent they might have signalled a long overdue change in the spirit, if not the letter of the law as applied to cannabis offences. Unfortunately this is not so.....take a recent bust in the less rarefied atmosphere of Antrim..... The drug squad, armed with a warrant and house-breaking paraphernalia stormed into the home of a 32-year old aircraft engineer. They found 6 grammes of cannabis resin and a set of scales. With no friends in court, in any sense of the phrase, he was duly convicted and received a staggering £300 fine and a 3-month recorded sentence. A sentence like this, little short of the maximum for possession, shows how local magistrates are determined to defend the lucrative trade of the socially acceptable 'drug pushers'.... the brewers and publicans.

If you are in need of help in such matters, and if you have no royal pedigree, contact OUTTA CONTROL 0232-25426.

The make up of the organisation is almost completely middle class, with a high proportion of clergymen and women, and professionals in general. Professor McLaren who has opposed abortion in Birmingham and not allowed them in his area is a leading member.

The Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign and friends formed a picket handing out leaflets and information to the well heeled Malone Roaders, before the meeting started. We also attended the meeting and but for the persistent questioning of the speakers by NIAC, it would have been a much more boring and sanctimonious affair than it was. It was held in a Presbyterian meeting hall, the venue being changed at the last minute after the refusal of Queens University to allow them to use Queens Elms. It was a good choice of venue—the atmosphere toned in with the surroundings and at times it seemed that the assembled would burst into prayer and a few hymns. We were firstly lectured by Mrs. Scarisbrick, English chairperson of the organisation and then by three upstanding members of the Belfast community (one

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BACK TO SCHOOL



Once you're sentenced at four or five you face 2 terms of 6 & 7 years to run consecutively. The first six aren't all that bad because you have not really a notion of what is happening. Not that you ever do. In the catholic school they really start to shovel it in — the religion bit, that is!

Many things go on which may not be so apparent ie. intense conditioning in sex roles, so by the time you're out many sexual prejudices are like second nature to you.

And of course the conditioning does not stop at sex roles. The whole system is reflected in your education, which is reinforced in your activities outside prison. Until it comes to a point where you can't think of life being any different from what it is. Then you are ready to take part in society — most likely on your knees building for the privileged, and then sweeping up after their destruction.

Of the two prisons I found grammar school the worst. I can sum up what it meant in 2 words — humiliation and torture. They tortured you into feeling insecure and unimportant. Of course the place was run by tyrannical, stupid, middle-class shites, the type that calls the provos terrorists, always looking for a pat on the head from the Master race, and who do their best to succeed in life by licking all the boots they can. Most of the people who attended my school were of the middle class, high IQ - low intelligence bracket. Liberal shites — that is what I had to put up with.

I never wanted to go to the place — why should I? Why the fuck don't you catch yourselves on? Why do you think you are at the place ... to end up as a wee cog in their machinery, and what do you get — fuck all!

Please note:

Do not cooperate with your school. Ignore all teachers when you see them outside school (they'll probably ignore you any way). Do not attend any school functions. Withdraw yourself from all school clubs. Do not sit up straight in class. Laugh at the teachers. Do not use the school library. When at dinners eat all you can and make as much a mess as you can. Do not buy any pens or pencils or any stationary — use old scraps. Wear your school uniform the wrong way round etc etc.

OR... Better still, just do what YOU want.

LIFE SENTENCES FOR WOMEN?

On Wednesday 3rd September, LIFE an anti-abortion organisation, held its inaugural meeting in Belfast. The organisation has just been granted a room from the Belfast Welfare Society in Bryson House to run a counselling service. LIFE was formed in 1970 in Britain, its main aim being the repeal of the 1967 Abortion Act and opposition to abortion "root and branch". It has a long history of using emotional and horrifying tactics in its campaign. For example in the Midlands of England members of LIFE handed wreaths to women coming out of abortion clinics.

A SLOW DEATH

Based on Margaretta D'Arcy's press conference after her release.

Enter Dr. Spence, a round, red faced man, his breathing heavy with the smell of drink. 'How are you this morning, ladies?' he chirps. There is no reply. And again, 'How are you ladies?' The 2 women lying on their beds in an empty cell, whose walls are covered in their own excreta and menstrual blood, don't respond. So he prods the 'ladies' and tries again.

Dr. Cole has a prosperous practice in Armagh town and regularly runs a surgery for the same 'ladies'. When they ask for treatment for heavy periods or cystitis, he gives them tablets and never examines them. You see its all in their minds. Women often exaggerate their pains and these women are particularly irrational. He tells them this.

Marie Mc Clennaghan has black blood coming out of her back passage. She was in prison before and developed a lump on her breast. On this occasion she has discovered another one on her other breast. The doctors have not examined her for either illness.

Dolores Price, whose sister was freed because of her severe illness and is now still in hospital, is herself like an old woman. Her young body has caved in, her face sunken, her limbs are like sticks. Like many of the women she shuffles rather than walks. She is so weak she can't attend mass.

Pauline Mc Laughlin became so dehydrated from anorexia nervosa that her heart collapsed and was rushed to the City Hospital. Here 8 pints of fluid were pumped into her body. Within 24 hours she was back in prison and now regularly 'receives' 8 pints of fluid. This stops her from dying.

Mary Doyle is surrounded not only by her 'natural' waste but has constant attacks of vomiting and diarrhoea.

The building is old, so even when the cells are steam-hosed, the cracks in the walls and floors are still dirty. The variety of insects reemerge from the skirting boards. There is no ventilation. The windows are boarded up and the doors only opened ajar by screws, never wide. The smell is too unpleasant, you see. The little air there is seems to be absorbed by the excrement. In a 24 hour period there is only enough energy for 1½ hours. Even talking is exhausting.

There is not enough protein in the food to give energy, only enough to survive. If a meal is missed there is hardly enough energy reserves to keep going. The talk and day-dreams are about food. All the time. Though there is quantity there is no substance and 5 minutes later the hunger pains start. They stay most of the day.

The guardians of this institution take home £280 per week. There are male criminals from Crumlin Rd. and male officers constantly on the wing. All the screws are loyalist in persuasion and their job is to guard the republican protestors. There is 23 hours tension of petty and degrading confrontation.

Most of these young women depend on the letters from and visits with their families. They live on the hope and security of their families support. Consequently the censors periodically stop letters going to or arriving from this source. About one third of all letters never reach their destination. The distress is only another weapon of the Northern Ireland Office.

Gone Fission

Conservatives in competition
Enclosing conservation
Reeling from their rod of iron
Their business is booming
Their sharks are basking
Lying money flapping on their banks
Whaling in their 'Sun'
News floats heavy water off our backs
Spun lies along the same old lines
We fall for their short-term prophets
Gold and silver lures of our long-term loss
Hooked on their headlines
Barbed wire and caught
Our air choked in their creeping weeds
Of nuclear power plants of tragic mushrooms

Before they drown us out
In their wave of popular feelings
We will not gasp our last
Until we air our views--
If their will be
There will be nuclear
But no more families
When everyone's gone fission
Will any body
Any longer be?

The Law and the Peace People

The Peace People recently published a booklet called 'Rights and Responsibilities'. A young person's guide to the Law and Emergency Legislation in Northern Ireland' by T. Foley and P. Graham.

When I first saw the booklet I thought 'Great! Its about time someone did something to let us know our rights'. On reading it I just felt angry. Fair enough it does let you know what the police and army can and cannot do (they can do whatever the fuck they like). Unfortunately the authors have a naive faith in the forces of law and (dis)order. This is shown in their treatment of the Diplock Courts. They say, 'The Judges also have a more difficult job to do, there are no juries permitted in many kinds of case ... and the judge is left to unravel the questions of the law (his normal job) and to make sense of the questions of fact (normally the job of the jury)'.

What I'd like to know is how the absence of a jury makes the judge's job harder when the evidence in 80% of the cases is based on 'confessions' and if the judge is a bit pissed off he can always find the suspect guilty (or just for the fun of it). The authors say that they are trying to make young people think about the law but they don't seem to have thought about it much themselves.

The booklet ends with a quotation from the Declaration of the Peace People. 'We want for our children, as we want for ourselves, our lives at home, at work and at play, to be lives of joy and peace'.

Hallelujah, Praise God and pass round the collection tray! But how are we going to achieve this?

Certainly not by tolerating the repressive legal system operating in Northern Ireland today and hoping that things will get better if we stick our heads in the sand and wait a few years.

We must abolish the control of politicians, losses and priests and take matters into our own hands because only when we control our own lives can we be certain of living, 'lives of joy and peace'.

THE PAPER WHICH INVITES ARSON!

If you happen to pick up a copy of the 'Sunday News' (Sept 14th), turn to page nine and happen across an article entitled 'The Women who invite Rape', and read through it, you're entitled to do what your immediate reaction tells you to do. After all, due to the fire at the premise's earlier this year, theres only a fraction of the building left to go.

The article as a whole, written by an anonymous reporter by the name of Joan Boyd, with the aid of an RUC chief Inspector Jean Gallagher sets out to trivialise, condone, render irrelevant rape — blaming women for inviting it by walking in the streets, or going to the pubs on their own — socially unacceptable, how much safer they'd be locked up in a kitchen under the careful guidance of their husbands, who can legally (almost) beat them up at the first sign of dissent, rebellion against his authority as the owner (under law, a woman is considered the mans property — if a woman is raped, the husband may sue the rapist for damages against his 'property'), failure to comply with his desires, legalised rape marriage etc.

Official figures quoted say that the incidence of rape in N. Ireland has risen by 23% to 58 — "insignificant", according to the police — of course they don't take into account that 90% plus of all rapes are unrecorded, as most women are too terrified to report it to the police — to be put through the horrible experience of being treated like a piece of shit — laughed at, "sure your'e not making it up, love" (Rape - every womens fantasy) - ha ha, degraded by police doctors, the final piece of advice being "Don't go out at night".

The RUC spokeswoman, and they made a great deal of it being a woman, makes some startling revelations —

"Its very difficult to give women advice on what to do in the event of an attack — its' not the case of women being jumped on at night, that kind of thing just doesn't happen" and

"...many more girls pretend that they were raped because they do not have an excuse for being out late and are frightened that their parents will be angry" — its not even laughable....

Its no use just to criticize Joan Boyd as an individual as shes just another paid hack, pandering to the wishes of the fees ures editors and ultimately the owner, Colonel Richardson.

The article, in the most subtle of ways tries to equate the alledgedly "low" (on paper) of rapes with the rise of the paramilitaries — leading the reader to believe that, as well as dismissing the problem of rape, the people concerned are getting their kicks another way — what conclusion does that lead to?

Like the rest, this is just another piece of shit smeared onto a piece of paper, by another bought and paid hack to be accepted by some and unnoticed by others — who are they kidding?

NE WELCOME THE RECENT ATTACKS ON THE SHAWL AGAINST THE CUTS. WE WILL WRITE FOR THE OFFICE. THE CONQUERORS, COMMUNITY LEADERS.

WHERE THE STATE & CHURCH ARE EXPLICIT IN THEIR REACTION TO THESE WOMEN, PEOPLE ARE TAUGHT PRIMARILY TO BE QUIET. ANARCHISTS HAVE CONSISTENTLY EXPOSED THESE SCHOOLS, WITH FERRACI, THE CONTEMPORARY FREE SCHOOL MOVEMENT.

IS ONE OF THESE AREAS REACTIONARY? IT IS A DESIGNED ANARCHIST. HIGH SCHOOL & THE CONTEMPORARY FREE SCHOOL.

FOR LATEST COLOUR VIDEO ON EDUCATION — ARMAHGH & IT BLOCK CONTACT VIOLET BOOKS — FREE HIKE.

THERE IS ANOTHER ARMAHGH PRISON PACKET ON SAT. 17th OCTOBER. THESE WOMEN NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

ARMAGH PICKET

On Saturday 30th Sept Women Against Imperialism staged a picket outside Armagh Jail to highlight the conditions of the protestors inside and also the ill health of Pauline Mc Laughlin, who is being refused any medical treatment because of her previous involvement with the protest.

Surprisingly there was a low turnout but that did not take away from the spirit of the picket as a whole.

A member of WAI outlined in brief a history of the protest for political status and the special case of Pauline Mc Laughlin. After this there were only two more short speeches — by Kevin Agnew, who was part of a contingent from South Derry, and by another WAI member. Then the picketers turned to chanting and singing which they hoped would be a great boost to the morale of the women inside.

During the picket the RUC spotted someone taking photos of them. They did not try to approach this person there and then, but waited until he had got on the bus and was about a mile outside Armagh. They demanded the photos under threat of arrest for so called 'collecting of information of use to terrorists' and also threatened to take everyone out onto the road and search them. So eventually the photos were handed over and the bus returned safely to Belfast.

One should note that information can be just as easily got from the press, TV etc, ie. photos of RUC members and other likely targets. So what the authorities were really afraid of was the photos being presented in a certain way to discredit the RUC.

CARNSORE POINT

The 3rd Anti-Nuclear demonstration at Carnsore Point was quite unlike last years festivals in that it had a lot more 'political' content to it rather than the passive consumption of last year. As a demonstration it was a 'testing' of the anti-nuclear movement on questions like, support for it, solidarity within it, and new ideas coming from it.

SUPPORT

Firstly attendance was down on last year, a lot of people didn't come because there was not a festival, some because they thought that the nuclear debate had been ended/delayed by the lack of 'public' determination by the government to steam roll ahead.

A lot of people attended because they knew Carnsore is still very much a threat, because Uranium prospecting is taking place all over the country, North and South at the expense of the EEC who are desperate to get 'their own' reserves, and because of the noxious industries springing up, where multi-national corporations are coming in to exploit the workers and if that is not bad enough to leave them decaying cripples along with the rest of the people who live in the immediate area of the factories.

SOLIDARITY

The Anti-Uranium groups have placed themselves outside the Anti-Nuclear Movement in that they see the campaign as being solely one of No Uranium Mining without Carnsore was productive for those who did get involved — the knowledge that we can achieve anything if we put our minds to it, that people with no apparent skills can build a large village with toilets, water, food, etc... Maybe more importantly it gives people time to get to know each other, to know who you can trust — which in the event of direct action against the nuclear station at Carnsore is all too important.

PUBLICLY widening the issues to nuclear power, waste, bombs etc.

The Donegal Uranium Committee (being the largest) does not wish to work with a movement which appears to tell them how to conduct the campaign — they are however prepared to work WITH people, not for them.

Those who have been campaigning on the issue of noxious industries have tried to encourage the involvement of anybody who is interested — however groups and individuals within the movement have been slow or against widening the issues outside the nuclear cycle or else distrust working with Revolutionary Struggle who are initiating the campaign at present.

Splits and bad feelings do exist within the groups, individuals and organisations involved within the movement on a whole range of questions, on the campaign, strategy, etc. In short, the anti-nuclear movement is not a movement in the sense of a coherent force.

NEW IDEAS

Because of this lack of support as well as partial support for certain issues, new ideas were not very forthcoming — if anything the splits, distrusts became more rooted, not exactly the mood for imagination and power.

Carnsore's future as a demonstration festival/discussion weekend etc. must be seriously thought about before it takes place again next year, if it does. Carnsore has lacked discussions on what the problems are in the locality and how best to get our message over or get the support of local people. If construction at Carnsore starts it is imperative that local support is on our side — and it will be too late if we wait until the government decides to make its move.

Carnsore 80 also suffered from low involvement of those who attended. Of the 40 different workshops, exhibitions, slides, film etc, few people actually participated with most just 'being there'. Carnsore also gives the impression that it had to take place because it happened last year. The weekend event was not necessarily the best strategy available — it was the only ONE in that the same energy/commitment would not have been expelled on any other activities.

This article is written by 2 visiting friends, one of whom was in Poland during the recent general strikes in the Gdansk region.

It is difficult to convey the complexities of the whole situation in such a short space, but we have some impressions and thoughts to share.

Poland has been dominated by Russian influence for decades with a totalitarian Party-State which controls all economic, political, and social life. In the last 10 years, as a reaction to a low standard of living and lack of freedom, there has erupted class confrontations and strikes. This summer, what started as a protest against meat prices, blossomed into a widespread strike movement for working class control over the economy and more freedom generally.

Impressions

I arrived at the Lenin Shipyards the day the Premier came for the negotiations. The 16,000 workers were in permanent occupation and the situation was really lively. Here was the government forced to come to Gdansk to talk to the strike committee delegation of around 400 workers from all the main factories in the region, the whole thing relayed over loud-speakers to the 2 or 3 thousand outside the factory. The hatred for the party was clear. Everything the Premier said was jeered at. The people were quite cynical to promises of reforms that he was offering, confident that their strength and unity would force him to concede their demands.

In drawing up their list of demands, the strike committee included demands for more than just themselves as industrial workers. As a result, intellectuals and students came to offer help and support, for example bringing a duplicator for the workers' strike bulletins. Private farmers brought their food to the shipyards rather than the state stores. People from all over came to Gdansk to show their support and to get information, as there was no radio, press, or telephone communication.

POLAND STRIKES

Inside, the shipyards was a no-go area and we were very lucky to get passes. The decision-making body was instinctively intended to be a workers council of rotating delegates. However, the structure and communications between workers and their delegates often broke down, but no one seemed very alarmed by this because there was a total trust of the strike committee, as fellow workers, to speak for them.

The strongest attitude was of class unity against the Party, but a deliberate vagueness as to what alternatives they wanted. Because of their intense hatred of the Russian state and its lies, they believed the more subtle propaganda of the West. They were surprised when we told them how our government and trade unions didn't speak for the workers any more than theirs.

As an ex-Catholic, I was dismayed at the strength of Catholicism. Everyone took part in daily mass. Such religious traditions, long suppressed by the State, won the support of the majority of people in Poland, and was eagerly capitalised upon by the Church.

Some Thoughts

Those involved in these struggles have won important victories, and gained a lot of confidence and experience of self-organising. This is just the beginning, and some of the contradictions are now plain — who should run society? What is the role of the Church? Is there any difference between Eastern and Western capitalism? Could their workers councils have seized control, if not for the threat of the Russian troops? What would happen if there were similar general strikes at the same time throughout the Eastern bloc... and the West? Will people, especially youngsters, take this opportunity to question and oppose their rigid family/sexual/religious upbringing? Will we learn from their unity and determination, and confront what oppresses us, which is a society increasingly totalitarian, crisis-ridden, and destructive?

The 1979 Annual Report of the N.I. Health and Social Services has just recently been published... dramatic headlines in the Belfast Telegraph, a few 'sensational' figures, and then forgotten. Media coverage. But what is actually going on? The state of our health, our bodies, remains undiscussed, a mystery, beyond our understanding.

Our health—our ability to enjoy ourselves mentally and physically—has become an industry, with profits and factories, institutions bureaucrats and statisticians, and somewhere mixed up in it all are the doctors who dispense, prescribe, and push the little pills and potions which supposedly cure our ills. Last year there were 12½ million prescriptions in N.I. for every person. A small decrease in the previous year, but overall, quacks have been pushing more and more drugs at an ever-increasing rate throughout the 70's. One in every 5 drugs prescribed in N.I. is "a preparation for the nervous system"....in other words, 20% of the concoctions from our local health industry are chemical potions, designed —NOT TO IMPROVE OUR BODIES— but to subdue our minds in order to continue our lives of distress. Truly, doped to cope. We are doped with nearly 800,000 tranquiliser prescriptions in 1979 (no decrease here) and nearly 450,000 'hypnotic' prescriptions (which includes barbiturates). So what?

Hypnotics are manufactured for 'rapid sedation'...to put us to sleep. They are similar to alcohol in many ways—addictive, tolerance develops all too easily, unpleasant withdrawal symptoms, suicidal feelings etc. etc.. In short, a very unpleasant, anti-social pill to knock our bodies and minds out, so that the causes of our nervous state are never tackled. But 'barbs' work too well for the health industry.... you cannot work, live, stay awake, drive, exist. Hence the recent medical moves to curb their expansion and shift towards tranquilisers— the infamous valium, librium and friends which have more to do with share-prices and advertising than our well-being. Over ¼ million prescribed doses in N.I. last year —the majority for women diagnosed as being in states of 'anxiety', 'depression', or 'tension'.

PILL PUSHING

Apart from the physical dependence, the bad side effects, they work by drilling into our central nervous system. Unlike barbiturates, they DO enable you to function as a zombie in today's modern society. Hence their increasing popularity with the establishment medical order. They are the perfect 'good citizen' drug for women (and men) who cannot cope with crazy housing, polluting-dangerous traffic, huge families and no facilities, aggressive husbands, inflation unemployment, army and police forces etc. etc. It's easy to see why tranquilisers are easy and cheap to get: it's easy to see why doctors prescribe so many so often; it's easy to see the important role of the drug manufacturer in our 'modern world'! It's not so easy to create the alternatives.

One of the many important points raised by the women's liberation movement is the importance and necessity of health-care and the lack of it from our doctorate institutions. A knowledge of our bodies is the beginning of our health, and as an alternative to the industry of pills, bureaucrats, and commandments from the 'experts'. Our health will ultimately depend on a changed people-orientated environment, (not in the interests of commerce and carbon-monoxide), with people-orientated self-help clinics: on good and plentiful wholesome food (not expensive, packaged, harmful rubbish), with communities where people find it easy to care for each other (not lead the life of isolated, lonely individuals seeking relief through pills and alcohol).... Alongside these idyllic notions, we need to regain an understanding of the healing qualities of many of the plants that grow freely around our country-side.

Our health depends on the changes we make ourselves... not on the directives handed down by 'experts' with a pill mentality.

Interesting figures have also come to light about the legal pushing of tranquilisers and barbiturates in the S. of Ireland. Like the North, the greater the level of unemployment, the more pills pushed....nearly twice as high in the cities as in the country-side,many more women than men....and again as in the 'north', nothing is being done about it....yet.

continued from front page

of whom, the lawyer, had to be corrected on a point of law by members of NIAC) We were appalled at the knowledge of one of the speakers who after 38 years at the City and Mater hospitals informed us that the risk of death to a woman was greater if she had an abortion than going to full term birth—statistics show quite the contrary, abortion when performed early in pregnancy (as most are) is safer than having tonsils removed. She also felt that with such marvelous technological achievements being made in the field of medicine no woman however serious and debilitating her illness should have an abortion, she could be kept alive until the birth, and the quality of her life afterwards was not looked into very closely by the speaker, nor was the current cuts in the National Health Service. The point is that it is marvelous that such technology is available to help those women who want to have children — it is giving them more of a choice but LIFE are intent upon denying women the choice not to go through that experience and the problems that they would face in bringing up a child.

After the lectures, the audience were "allowed" to ask questions. It was at this time that the meeting began to heat up. LIFE made it clear that they opposed abortion in all cases. For them the right of the child outweighed that of the mother. In the case of rape for example LIFE thought the woman should have to carry the child to full term birth, then they said that most women would "learn to love" the child, and not visit the "sins of the father" on the child. If of course that didn't happen — then LIFE would offer an adoption service. This was also their position on children found to have gross deformities and disabilities—though they forgot to add that these children would find it almost impossible in our society to be

adopted and would be condemned to life in an institution.

What had LIFE done on the question of poverty and the single parent— well that wasn't their province they said but Mrs. Scarisbrick added that £30.00 per week was "quite adequate" to fulfill the needs of a mother and child. She of course would know her husband being a Professor at Warwick University. This was also the woman who opposed the building of a nursery beside her home, presumably it might have brought the property values down!! In actual fact a single woman and child would receive around £21.00 if she were a householder, and her rent would be paid for her in full if it was within a prescribed amount....Mrs Scarisbrick was misleading the audience who balked slightly at the prospect of living on £30.00 per week.

The audience was also misled as to the sort of accommodation that LIFE offered to women. Accommodation is for the duration of pregnancy and in first few weeks after birth. Their literature for Northern Ireland states that they are offering accommodation to unmarried women: they are completely unable to offer married women practical help, believing as they do in the "sanctity of the marriage bed".

LIFE were incapable of answering questions on sex education. LIFE begins at conception and they ignore what happened to get life there in the first place and the methods of contraception that would help to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Seeing as they do give their horror slide shows in schools (many teacher priests and nuns attended the meeting) one would think that this was a good opportunity to give young people contraceptive advice. Obviously they would lose most of their supporters, them being against contraception as well!!

What LIFE is fundamentally doing is trying to restrict the right of women to control their own bodies— what it wants in England is the end of legal abortion and so a return to the backstreet and consequently more deaths and ill health to women as a result. In Northern Ireland they are intent on seeing that the Abortion Act of 1967 is not extended.

Despite wide advertising in the local press and three TV and radio appearances LIFE could only muster an audience of 200 on Wednesday—but that shouldn't make us think that they are no threat. Those 200 represented some of the most powerful people in society here—the Church, the Law and the Medical Establishment. As such they need careful watching and opposition if abortion is ever to be legalised here. Women who believe that we have the right to choose whether to have an abortion should come forward. We need a strong pro-choice campaign.

HAVE YOU OR A FRIEND EVER USED A CONTRACEPTIVE THAT DIDN'T WORK?

In Nireland you would have to continue the pregnancy, go to England to obtain an abortion or risk a backstreet abortion. A Conference on Abortion has been organised for Sat. 11th October 10:30 a.m. Mc Mordie Hall Queens Students Union NIAC meets every Wednesday. Details from the Womens Centre, telephone 43363.

OUTTA CONTROL DRUGS SUPPLEMENT

This is an article about drugs--ALL drugs, but more particularly those which some authority has declared to be 'illegal', and therefore must be 'controlled'...by them, of course. Little gets written about the drug laws, the drug industry, the 'drug scene' in Ireland.....instead we are constantly fed the platitudes that those drugs for sale on the open market are quite safe, necessary, or harmless to our well-being (i.e. all those numerous pills and remedies that the medical profession dispense at random). With other drugs, like tobacco and alcohol, governments are only too keen to let us decide for ourselves, as long as they can cut-in on the take! Those declared illegal (and backed up by the agents of their law and their order) are portrayed as nothing less than the stepping stones through perversity and craziness, to addiction and a horrible death. It's all very clear-cut and 'scientific'....but somewhat removed from reality. There IS a 'drug problem' in this country, of that there is no doubt; but it has a lot more to do with successive governments, the law, those that enforce the law, the profit-making drug companies, and the many practices of a Western capitalist culture....collectively THEY are the 'drug problem'. And not at all the increasing number of people learning yet again to experiment and develop through the use of natural, organic substances.

BUT HOW COME REALITY SEEMS TO BE ON ITS HEAD?

Perhaps a bit of history will help explain why some drugs are illegal (any dealings carrying stiff prison sentences) whilst other 'drugs' become a multi-million pound industry. It's not, as you might think, somehow connected to our 'welfare'....but has much more to do with racism, imperialism, police-power, and ignorance.

All cultures, at all times, have 'turned' on to something whether for religious/mystical purposes or just pure enjoyment beyond beyond the norm of everyday life. The use of marijuana, for instance, spread westwards from China from about 5000BC. S.American cultures have used various hallucogenic plants for centuries. It's not something recently invented by the western flower-child-
ren of the 60's! Marijuana first came to Europe following the interest in the writings of other cultures that occurred during the Renaissance (15th.&16th. centuries)....the stems of the marijuana plant were invaluable for rope and sail-cloth, and played an important role in the mercantile trade boom. From George Washington to Queen Victoria, the very well documented medicinal uses of the marijuana plant were enjoyed.* In the West, though, it was largely confined to the aristocracy
...in the East, a part of daily life for all.

The 20th. century brought changes..the use of drugs such as opium, coca leaves, and marijuana from Eastern cultures began to play an important role in Western commerce: Britain, for example supplied China with Indian opium (derived from the poppy plant)....the government of the United States wanted in on the profits to be had. They instigated the 1912 Hague conference, an international government convention, to investigate all forms of natural drugs. The US government argued for world-wide illegalisation of drugs and control by governments. During the next 20 years various governments supported such illegalisation for a variety of reasons--and none of them for the benefit of the people themselves. S.Africa, Egypt, and Turkey were particularly interested in the outlawing of cannabis (marijuana or grass) due to the fear that its widespread use by workers and slaves would slow production; British trading interests were concerned about losing their grip on the opium trade in the colonies...but it was the US government, through the manufacture of drug-scare stories, who did most towards the eventual banning.

In the midst of the depression, jobs were scarce in the US. Unwanted and unemployed Chinese labourers became an easy target, and the illegalisation of opium (opium was favoured mainly by the Chinese) gave more credibility to the government-sponsored press stories like... 'Chinese doping young American maidens to make them slaves'.....The US government were simply using opium to instill racism in the American workforce. It gave the unemployed an outlet, other than the government and the business interests, on which to vent their anger. Likewise with coca-leaves and its derivative cocaine...the Southern states resisted any black/white equality using the outlawing of cocaine to give credence to the lies about 'coke-crazed blacks raping young whites' etc. etc.. And all too often the racism and ignorance were believed, aided by the shock-horror presses. And likewise racism and business politics were behind the illegalisation of marijuana. Following the prohibition of alcohol in the 20's, marijuana became increasingly popular as an alternative, particularly with an influx of Mexicans looking for work... it was easier to deport Mexicans for 'illegal' marijuana use than to pay them welfare payments...so marijuana was banned also.

And Britain followed suit with the banning and control of certain drugs from 1917 onwards. (It was a mere coincidence that marijuana was included in these laws...Britain merely ratified an international agreement which included marijuana, but their prime interest was in the control and sale of opium.) The 30's, 40's, and 50's saw yet another turn in the 'drugs scene'. If racism and imperialist economics had been instrumental in forming the basis of our drug knowledge earlier in the century, it was the American narcotics squad which fed us our information thereafter. With alcohol no longer illegal in America, the Feds and G-men, who had become an industry in themselves, justified their enormous power-base with a crack-down on the 'evils' of marijuana smoking, as always equating it with crime, subversion, and anarchy! And the media, as always, were only too happy to go along with it... (it sold newspapers!). The illegalisation of drugs, used for centuries by many different cultures, was never based on 'scientific fact', the medicinal and pleasurable uses never considered.... racism, imperialism, cop-power, and red-scars were at the foundation of our modern drug laws. No wonder that drugs and crime seem to be two of a kind...but more of that later.

Throughout the prohibitive legislation of the 20's and 30's, the international medical profession did nothing to counteract the blatant propaganda--and for good reason. Any move away from heret al cures could only but increase the saleability of their 'scientific' potions, neatly packaged and marketed as cures for all our ills. That such cure medicine rarely worked stimulated better advertising campaigns, rarely better medicine! (and it was always a 'cure'.. never an attempt at tackling the various causes of illness and disease...it was much, much too difficult to 'market' that 'product'. Later in the 20th. century, as some people rejected the 'alien-culture racism' of international law, and were prepared to experiment with the ancient natural medicines and relaxants of the East, the legal chemical manufacturers began to find 'cures' for ALL our ills...and made it very profitable in the process. It became very big business, with illness and causes a mere side-issue in the race for profits, the research and development and packaging of the same old wonder drugs, the squabbling over patents, the massive advertising campaigns that accompany every new pill. The scientific establishment, with scientific advertising to gain our confidence, replaces and mystifies the whole notion of self-help, peoples cures and natural, herbal medicines. And controlled by a handful of international drug companies like Hoffman la Roche (of Seveso and Dioxin fame), ...a Swiss multinational with an annual turnover of over £500m., but a very low turn-over of satisfied customers.

Continued overleaf

Continued from overleaf

The success of the chemical drug industry is reinforced, not just by their massive advertising campaigns, but by the attitudes prevailing throughout the Western medical profession...always away from ANY degree of self-understanding, and towards the (predominantly male) medical hierarchy and the chemical fix only THEY can prescribe. Our bodies, our minds, our health are their possession; our mystery but their profit. 'Shoot-up and Shut-up' as SEDATION becomes the norm for the depressed, at work or in the home. Working-class women suffer most at the hands of these Quacks who prescribe twice as many sedatives for women as for men. Living in shit housing conditions, motor-ways running past their doors, heavily armed Brits running through their lives, nowhere for the kids to play, demanding aggressive husbands, women are DOPED TO COPE. The pseudo-scientific technical/chemical fix called LIBRIUM or VALIUM, the Hoffman la Roche answer to 'anxiety' or 'psychic tension'. The 'women's problem' is reduced to their inability to cope with their predestined 'natural' role! The 'scientifically-proven' wonder drugs of the 60's, 70's, and 80's become part of daily life...and never mind the physical as well as the psychological problems...the bad side effects, the dangers during pregnancy, dangers of mixing with alcohol, the very real addiction problems...in fact, all the problems normally associated with 'illegal' drugs can be yours every time you visit the local doctor! And if you don't consider THAT to be criminal, there's more...read on. So, with a neat mix of racial prejudice and economics we end up with a series of draconian drug laws which scientists continually try to justify! Therefore when we think of drug laws we think of corruption, addiction, craziness and death...and that's how the law appears as our only safeguard for sanity. That it's not, hardly matters as long as enough people go along with THEIR way of thinking, consuming their horror stories in their daily rag. A beginning is, of course, to try a smoke for yourself. Their prejudices and guilt-trips are difficult to overcome, but hardly impossible. The consumption of organic, natural substances is only a crime because of the accumulated prejudice and racism that ends up as the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971)...and sentencing in the north of Ireland is particularly severe, not because of a greater 'drug problem' here, but because of the ignorance of the magistrates and judges who can never hope to understand the full use of the brain; and a DS always ready to justify their existence and penalise those they catch as vindictively as possible...aided by some non-entity from Queens University whose 'authoritative' article in the N.I. Legal Review convinces judges that a 'custodial sentence for a first offence is more common in N.I.'

So that's one aspect of the drug problem...but there IS a very real connection with crime that should not be ignored. As long as there's laws prohibiting the use of natural drugs-any law, any drug-there will be 'crime' as professionals take over for the money (whether Belfast, Dublin, or Columbia). And the drug becomes a refined yet impure COMMODITY, far removed from its origins...snorting very expensive cocaine rather than chewing coca leaves; injecting heroin rather than smoking opium; the use of dirty needles; and dealing out hash rather than growing marijuana. Heroin junkies do, of course, exist (though nowhere near the scale of those destroyed by alcohol and valium) and its not a glorious scene...but they are more the victims of our legislated culture than simply of drug abuse. The state response to people, feelings, and consciousness is always prohibition, legislation, police, courts, and prisons. It's always the SCARE education of the drug squad, and media whereby their ignorance and puritanism freaks out an inquisitive conscience, or steers it towards aerosol sprays and doctored morning-glory seeds. (NOT RECOMMENDED) Real drug education literature is legally classified as obscene, and those caught communicating with others are guilty of 'corruption and a danger to society'.

Marijuana, opium, coca leaves, and psilocybin mushrooms may not be the choice of everyone, but our individual scope and preferences can only be discovered in a society where social communication is the priority, NOT legal prohibition based on ignorance, racism, imperialism, and a prison sentence!

*marijuana, cannabis, hash...various derivatives of the leaves and flowers of the marijuana plant. It will grow anywhere if there is no frost, some sunlight, and a head-start against other plants.

**medicinal uses include constipation, rheumatism, menstrual cramps, difficult child-birth, fevers, convulsions, dysentery, appetite stimulant, analgesic and an aphrodisiac.

†one medical report on the use of cannabis bases its horror story on the fact that if rats smoke 3 times their body weight in grass every day for 3 months, they would become ill! Rightly so!!

BANNED ----

1917... COCAINE,
HEROIN, MARIJUANA
1925... CANNABIS
1964... AMPHETAMINES
1966... L.S.D. (ACID)

LEGAL CLASSIFICATION

A : COCAINE, COCA LEAVES, HEROIN, L.S.D., Mescaline,
MORPHINE, OPIUM, ANGEL DUST (PCP).
B : AMPHETAMINES AND CANNABIS (NOT SEEDS)
C : MANDRAX, MILD AMPHETAMINES.

SENTENCING

MAGISTRATES COURT		CROWN COURT	
POSSESSION	SUPPLY	POSSESSION	SUPPLY
A	UP TO 6 MONTHS AND/OR £1000 FINE	UP TO 7 YEARS +/OR UNLIMITED FINE	UP TO 14 YEARS +/OR UNLIMITED FINE
B	UP TO 3 MTHS. +/OR £500 FINE	UP TO 5 YEARS +/OR UNLIMITED FINE	UP TO 14 YEARS +/OR UNLIMITED FINE
C	UP TO 3 MTHS. +/OR £200 FINE	UP TO 2 YEARS +/OR UNLIMITED FINE	UP TO 5 YEARS +/OR UNLIMITED FINE

INFORMATION ON THEIR LAW COMES FROM RELEASE, 1 ELLIN AVENUE, LONDON W.7. THEY CAN BE CONTACTED TO GIVE ADVICE, AND ALSO HAVE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF GOOD SOLICITORS IN BOTH DUBLIN AND BELFAST. LIKE OUTTA CONTROL, THEY NEED FUNDS. 01-603-2654 IS THEIR 24-HR. EMERGENCY NO.

PSILOCYBIN MUSHROOMS

FRESH ONES ARE STILL LEGAL : DRIED ONES COULD BE CONSIDERED AS A PREPARATION... BUT IT CAN BE DEFENDED ON THE GROUNDS THAT ONLY A CHEMIST CAN 'PREPARE' OR EXTRACT THE 'LEGAL' BIT!

40 "JUST BOOKS" 7 WAREHOUSE ST. BELFAST 1. 0232-25426

COMMENTS TO "OUTTA CONTROL"

CHARLIES ANGEL DUST

At the end of March, Jim McCann, who was charged with possession of 1/2 a million pounds worth of dope, and possession of a pistol with intent to endanger life, walked free from the Central Criminal Court, after one of the most inept prosecution cases ever heard in Ireland. The whole bust from the beginning was shrouded in mystery with different versions of what happened that night on the Naas Road lay-by appearing in the local and national papers. Some contradicting others, just as garda evidence at the trial contradicted the most commonly accepted story that had appeared in the press at the time of the bust - a story that had come from the gardai, of course.

Certain events help explain the ease of McCann's acquittal. The re-appearance of some of the Thai grass from the bust for sale on the streets of Dublin must have been part of the price of McCann's freedom (though one member of the gardai has been questioned about this, the DPP has decided not to press charges). The other part of it would appear to be McCann's silence.

In an interview with that scurrilous sexist rag the Sunday World after his release, McCann claimed that if the trial had continued he would have had to make some revelations about happenings at the beginning of the '70s that would prove very embarrassing to a 'highly placed politician'. The immediate reaction is to think of Haughey and arms, though the drugs angle should not be discounted. When the present southern drugs act was being debated in the Dail, Haughey fought it tooth and nail, particularly the bit that allows the DS to search houses, cars, yachts etc on suspicion and without a warrant. early in the '70s a drunken Sunday World reporter in Cork claimed that Haughey was one of the main men behind the importation of dope into Ireland. That the story was never printed has more to do with a fear of reprisals from Haughey, than with any lack of evidence. Many of Haughey's business deals have been 'shady' - such as his purchase of land in N.Dublin which was immediately rezoned for development, giving Haughey a tidy sum.

The whole question of dope importing and dealing in the South brings in local and not so local mafia which run the scene. And that's how such bad dope hits the streets... perhaps some dealers falling out accounts for the so-called 'supergrass' knocking about. This is just grass out with 'angel dust' - a very powerful psychochemical which can hit some people in very bad ways. It also enables Mullins and friends of the DS to crack down even harder, particularly with a 'legalise it' campaign run by Ubi Dwyer just beginning to get off the ground. Shock horror scare stories, fed by the DS, is the level of their 'education'.

† grass can be checked for the presence of angel dust...put some grass in water and angel dust will float out;

POSSESSION: THEY HAVE TO PROVE IT IS A CONTROLLED DRUG, THOUGH ANY DRUG LITERATURE LYING ABOUT COULD BE USED AGAINST YOU. KNOWING SOMEONE ELSE HAS A CONTROLLED DRUG IS NOT AN OFFENCE : PRIOR POSSESSION IS, BUT DIFFICULT TO PROVE UNLESS YOU ADMIT IT. 'TRACES' CAN BE FOUGHT, AS LONG AS YOU DON'T SAY IT WAS PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER. NEVER SAY YOU'VE TRIED IT IN THE PAST, OR ABOARD.

SUPPLY: COULD INCLUDE THE PASSING OF A JOINT. AN OFFER OF SUPPLY IS ENOUGH FOR THEM. THERE'S ONLY ONE RULE - SAY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE AND GET A SOLICITOR.

outta control

News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective

OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management. This paper comes out every 3-4 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

THE ULTIMATE PROTEST

The months which end 1980 and begin '81 will see a heightening of political conflict. After over 4 years 'on the blanket', and the last 2½ of these on the no-wash protest, a no. of men are to begin a hunger strike on Oct. 27th — unless there is a dramatic change of circumstances before then.

The whole nature of Britain's repressive policies here are being challenged. This is the attempt at 'criminalisation' — by introducing sham courts, which have no juries, hearsay evidence and a reversal of the standard practice of 'innocent till proven guilty'; by refining legislation which allows for 3 and 7 day detentions before charging; by creating specialised centres for torturous interrogations; and by withdrawing of 'political status', and systematically beating and degrading those prisoners who protest. Thus the British government has attempted to demoralise opposition and internationally portray that opposition as criminal. It has claimed that the days of internment, Special Powers Act, torture and a crude sectarian police force are over.

'MURDER IS MURDER'?

Let us suppose that some people, who did kill, were caught in the dragnet of the 'conveyor belt' system. Three points should be made here.

Firstly, some of these are accused of killing members of the security forces who are not only responsible for individual acts of terror, but systematically repress any opposition to the blatant sectarian and reactionary nature of the state.

Secondly, others of these are accused of bombings which have inflicted fatalities and injuries on civilians, such as at Oxford St. (when the bombers naively believed the RUC would pass on the phoned warning) and more recently at Le Mon when lethal fire bombs killed many. But does the NIO believe that the Diplock system of torture, imprisonment and degradation will cure the dangerous irresponsibility, or more importantly remove the injustices which motivated these people.

Thirdly, the security forces record of murder and terrorism (Majella O'Hare, Brian McGuire, John Boyle, Michael McCann, to name a few victims)

has resulted in not one conviction or imprisonment among the 'peace-keepers'.

We all know the hypocrisy of the British and Unionist governments. And the propaganda of 'catching the terrorists' should not delude us as to the real nature of the Diplock Courts and the prisons. It is to put out of circulation those who would challenge, in any way, the right of the government to discriminate, to impoverish, to repress, and to shoot down if need be in order to preserve its power. If alas they cannot be framed and imprisoned, then shoot the croppies.

LOYALIST REACTION

Is the strike part of a Provo conspiracy to bring in Rome Rule; or does its reason lie in the setup of the state itself and in the prison regime.

There are about 10 loyalist blanket men. There were 100 but outside support dwindled and most became dissipated. But at first they too must *continued on back page*

SANITATION FOR THE NATION

Mr. Drug-Squad McBride has been given a lot of press coverage recently.... "magic mushrooms can kill".... "there have been deaths in England".... "it's as dangerous as heroin".... "if you see anyone picking them please let us know".... etc. The D.S. remedy.... its bad, dangerous, please inform us.

But as more and more people try them out for themselves, the D.S. nonsense is seen all too well. Magic mushrooms are not "poisonous"; that's just a catch-all phrase for something neither tried nor understood. (even most recent books on fungi - rather than admit their lack of research and experimentation, label them as poisonous and thus to be avoided). It's the scientific establishment (and the police) who are the least equipped to realise and recognise the potential of hallucinogenic drugs.... each in their separate ways try to stifle that which threatens THEIR dogma, that which upsets or contradicts THEIR way of looking at things; cause that's all that hallucinogenic mushrooms are—a vehicle for a new look at the world and ourselves. We may not like all we see or feel, but invariably the experience will teach us something new, a new way of looking at the madness around us and within us.

The most common hallucinogenic mushroom (which grows in most parks and golf courses around Belfast) is Psilocybin, the "flesh of the gods".... sacred in some cultures, just recently rediscovered in ours. It's more than possible that the fly agaric, another hallucinogenic mushroom, less common than psilocybin, but available in Ireland none the less - was used by druids and other hallucinogenic plants, generally regarded as poisonous were used by medieval witches or wise-women, which amongst other things gave them the real illusion of flying. (The male church wiped them out but that's another story).

While the DS spread horror stories and ask for touts, the picking of mushrooms and the eating of them is NOT an offence.... something which they are trying to change. Forerunners in this field are the Liverpool DS who are currently defending a case in the appeal court that the crushing of dried psilocybin, is a preparation of the controlled drug psilocin. What rubbish—but they are trying to confirm by law that crushing, boiling or preserving of psilocybin in honey is a preparation of the class A drug psilocin, and as such, illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971).

A good defence — always plead NOT GUILTY and sign no statement — is that such a preparation would involve a complex chemical process requiring laboratory equipment and an advanced knowledge of science - the mere crushing is NOT such a chemical preparation. If in doubt phone Release 01-603 8854 or us at 25426. Psilocybin mushrooms do not kill.... the lethal dose is beyond what our stomach can hold, though too many could mess up your head, so caution is obviously needed. Contrary to what we are told, there have NOT been any deaths in England due to psilocybin mushroom eating, though extreme care is needed to ensure that the right mushroom is being picked. Such information becomes freely available when it is passed on throughout our culture, from people to people: by trying to stifle and hide that which is freely available, the DS are contributing to our ignorance, to a lack of knowledge. That is when the dangers arise!!

To say mushrooms are as dangerous as heroin is utter tripe; heroin is a synthetic chemical, renowned for its physical and psychological addiction.... psilocybin mushrooms grow organically and are not addictive in either sense: heroin is a black-market commodity based on increasing and huge sums of money; mushrooms grow freely and are there for all who want them, to pick; heroin for a variety of reasons, KILLS;

continued inside



IRSP COUPLE SHOT

In the early hours of Wed. Oct. 15th, Noel Little and Ronnie Bunting, both members of the IRSP, were assassinated. Suzanne, Ronnie's wife, was critically injured. The attack has all the hallmarks of a British Army murder squad.

Noel had just been released from RUC custody, where he had refused to say anything and though from Short Strand, had gone to stay at the Buntings.



Noel Little

After breaking in through the front door (which had 5 locks) the attackers shot Ronnie and Suzanne at the top of the stairs, and went to the boxroom, where Noel was shot. They must have known where Noel was.

All three were active in their support for the H-Block and Armagh protesting prisoners. Noel especially worked incessantly for the Relatives Action Committee, and was a member of the Smash H-Block Committee (another of whose members - Miriam Daly - was also murdered last summer). Noel and Miriam will also be remembered for their part in the Murray Defence Campaign when that group opposed the threatened hanging of 2 anarchists from the south.

We salute Noel and Ronnie and will help continue the work they undertook. We hope that Suzanne will recover quickly.

WHO'S CULTURE?

Culture, now more than ever with the advent of mass communication, reflect and reinforces the values and position of the ruling elite. They see culture as a means of mystifying our role as the oppressed, and keep us in our place.

The Arts Councils, North and South, even at a time of depression have been given more money than ever. At about £3million annually or £1 per head of population, the Republic's rate of subsidy to the arts is now comparable to Britain's. Six years ago the Arts Councils budget was a mere £100,000.

COUNTER-CULTURE

However there is also a 'resistance' culture which attacks the whole basis of control in our society. People against all pressures write plays with a political message aimed against the establishment and bourgeois conditioning. Ironically the middle class sometimes allow these type of plays to be shown and actually applaud them, and say to us, look how liberal we are. However set against the backdrop of the hundreds of their plays which are shit, constantly putting us down, and combined with the fact that few of us are prepared to mingle with these middle class farts, much of the impact of an important play is diffused.

Such a play was staged at the Lyric in Belfast.

BENT BUT NOT BROKEN

Bent is set in Nazi Germany: its theme is the persecution of homosexuals, left-wingers and Jews during the Hitler regime; In the circumstances of the internment camp, reeking of grossness and the extreme of human depravity and brutality, love is not only present but prevails, and Max, the central character, a dilettante and idle sophisticate, is enabled through the conditions of the camp and the relationship with Horst, another homosexual, to discover the capacity for love and resistance.

OFF STAGE

In the Foyer of the Lyric were historical notes about the development of sexual politics during Germany at that period and photos of the notorious Dauchau concentration camp where part of the play takes place. It had obvious parallels with N. Ireland. Homosexuality is still illegal here. People are still being jailed for their homosexuality and political beliefs. The latter are thrown in prisons by way of the Diplock Courts and some end up in the concentration camps of Long Kesh and Armagh, run by the same type of people as in Dauchau who 'just obey orders'.

No doubt, too close to reality for the Lyric boozos who ritually go to the place con-

suming one play after another, not distinguishing between them and without making a blind bit of difference to them.

OUT OF THE CULTURAL GHETTO

It would be great if plays like Bent toured working class areas. Instead we are subject to the various 'Community' theatre groups who come and go, putting on irrelevant plays sidestepping political issues lest they are seen as sectarian or offend anyone which might lead to their 'all important' grants being cut.

If you get a chance to see Bent, do so.

TRANSLATIONS

The new play Translations by Brian Friel was written, at this politically delicate time, not to offend anyone. Least of all the Arts Councils, North and South and the Derry City Council, who altogether backed this one play to the tune of £70,000 and you don't get any money like that to rock any boats. The theme of the play had the potential to be politically hard hitting but dealt on a very superficial level. A good indication of the level was when at the Derry premiere a Unionist councillor lead the audience in the encore applause. The play could have articulated, highlighted and pinpointed cultural imperialism at its emergence but instead we are given a vehicle for Friel's 'Shakespearean' oratory. The actors, mostly from Ireland should have concentrated a bit more on the content than their 'all-important' form.



Two months after the shooting of the Lower Ormeau road boy, Michael Mc Cartan (aged 16), a tribunal of inquiry was organised. A panel of well-known figures, who are active in civil liberties work, heard the evidence—from both Michael's friends who had been with him, and neighbours. It was established that contrary to RUC claims

Michael was observed painting slogans by an RUC Special Patrol Group in an unmarked van 100 yards away, the same patrol did not shout a warning before shooting, the area was well lit with street lighting and there was no trouble in the area on that night, especially no shooting as the RUC claimed.

That the Friends of Michael McCartan resorted to a marquee tent for the Tribunal reveals the lack of local facilities. In fact the Catholic Church owns a hall, a nursery school and a youth club in the area. Dennis Newberry, the priest, refused permission for these to be used, as well as declining to even reply to the Friends who had asked him to sit on the panel. Incident-

ally he had banned Michael from the youth club.

About 200 people turned out for the Tribunal and apart from the immediate evidence, a general picture of the area was drawn—the inadequate social facilities, neglected housing maintenance and the vulnerability to loyalist sectarian attacks—2 people were shot dead earlier this year.

The problem of such a Tribunal however is that power is taken out of the local people's hands and placed in those of the experts—the articulate and the professional. When at the end of the session, there was an attempt to find out what could be done most people clutched at the vague suggestion of an independent public investigation without the RUC—but with Atkins organising it, this tribunal was the nearest thing.

The surest way to stop the RUC repeating this murder, short of keeping the bastards out, is to refuse any form of co-operation—including not allowing them to take our children to sports activities.

Friends,

I was delighted in reading what you had to say about the education system: how competitive and authoritarian it is.

I am a teacher in a state school. Since I began teaching it has been an uphill slog. Limited as I am in the system I attempt to relate honestly and openly to the kids. Unfortunately the kids used to the strict control and punishment from other teachers, often abuse my different ways of teaching. The rest of the teachers are antagonistic towards me and see my methods contributing towards the lack of discipline in the school.

Some of these teachers describe themselves as lefties and even belong to political parties which advocate freedom and democracy in our society. They don't relate

this to their work, however. They see their politics as fighting for higher wages, better promotional opportunities, better working conditions, shorter working day etc., the actual quality and content of teaching the children comes well down on their list. They expound the virtues of comprehensive education but to me this is no real way forward in educating people. Most people see teachers as prime figures of authority, dislike them and dread going to schools. I have tried as far as possible to stick to my principles but can see the day when I will be either given the boot or leave due to frustration. School years are a crucial time in people realising their full potential. I shall stick at it!

Keep up the good work.

RUC GUILTY!

CROSS!

The Crass have had quite some impact lately— their latest album has sold some 50,000 copies without any musical press hyping, despite the rantings of the predictable music press, telling us that we shouldn't like them, that they'll go out of fashion like the Clash, T.R.B. etc. Anyone who reads the lyrics, listens to the music, looks at the International Anthem should be able to realise that they go a lot further than just sloganeering.

The Crass Collective doesn't just comprise of the group— equally important are the film unit, the magazine publishing, the spray painting of tube-stations etc., they comprise of quite a lot of people living communally. They pursue different projects, doing benefits for various causes (an Anarchist centre in London for example) and spreading the message.

The words of the records etc., reject opportunistic leadership, saying that people should believe in themselves rather than delegating their responsibilities to others, the easy way out. A disappointing development has been the small army of punks rallying under the Crass banner, projecting them as another form of leadership. Punk was born out of living day to day on the dole, in a music industry pushing glam rock and bloated superstars, bearing no relevance to their own lives, feeding off the millions. Punk was a reaction against that. It was something young people could call their own, to bind themselves together. Eventually punk was bastardised and pulpitated by sell-outs, ripp-offs, people in for a quick profit. Someone is always feeding off discontent, be it a business person, Paisley, Party or Hitler, the worst thing is that they get away with it. The people who follow actually want to be led, rather than lead their own lives. Even Crass have to cope with this despite their break through— Crass armbands and T-Shirts sold by ripp-off merchants, kids buying them, rather than making their own, writing Crass on a wall rather than something more positive. Who's fooling who?

Minutes from the General Purposes & Finance Committee, Thursday 18th September.

The Town Clerk reported that at the meeting on 21st August the Committee had decided to adhere to the decision on 19th June to install a bath and shower unit in the Lord Mayor's Suite at an estimated cost of £2000.



in their magazine outline the various environmental struggles. NAMA-ZU is the Japanese word for catfish. A giant catfish is said to sleep beneath the Japanese islands, and the earthquakes caused by its frequent stirrings are said to indicate heavenly displeasure with the authorities.

With Japanese imports and the microchip continually being the scapegoat for unemployment, we are told that the success of Japan has been the monetarist policies and the obedient co-operative workforce. However the resistance against the state, but of course we don't hear much about that. The NAMA-ZU Collective.

FEDERALISM IS THE COORDINATION OF AUTONOMOUS REGIONS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD, MAINTENANCE OF SERVICES, ETC. ALL DECISIONS TO BE MADE AT BASE AND DELEGATES TO PRESSURE THESE DISCUSS, BUT THE BASE (STREET, VILLAGE, WORKPLACE) TO ULTIMATELY DECIDE. AT DIS-UNITED IRELAND - IF YOU LIKE

INVESTING DESTRUCTION

The latest "shock" unemployment figures are on the up and up — all the traditional and state jobs are disappearing fast. Except, of course, for the security "industry"...if enough money is offered plenty of mercenaries are flocking to join, eager to "learn how to sensibly kill"...

Another piece of rare investment in the North is a £1million expansion programme through the American-owned company Euroweld-owned by PX (Nuclear) Engineering of Boston. The money will be used to produce ancillary equipment (pressure vessels) for the nuclear industry.

The "security industry" and the "nuclear industry" OUR ECONOMY wouldn't be quite the same without them, wouldn't it?

ABORTION CONFERENCE

The Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign held its first conference on abortion, last weekend to which over fifty women attended. The morning session began with a lively talk from Madeleine Simms who has been campaigning for abortion law reform in Britain since the 1930s. She spoke of the struggle of women in this century to obtain free safe legal abortion and once won, albeit limited, in the form of the 1967 Abortion Act, the continual defence of those rights. A member of the UPAA gave us an account of their work, referring women to England for charity clinic abortions and Leonora Lloyd from the National Abortion Campaign spoke on her organisation and its work since 1975.

For me, the best part of the conference was in the afternoon workshops. It soon became apparent in my own workshop on abortion and contraceptive methods that women were much more interested in discussing safe and healthy contraception (and was this possible when drug companies are making such huge profits out of us) and by all women knowing about their own bodies, their menstrual cycle and the side effects of the contraceptive they had chosen, and generally keeping fit and healthy.

The other workshops proved to be just as interesting: the link was made between poverty and abortion, the difficulties in finding the money for an abortion or facing parenthood alone

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mushrooms don't, given the correct identification and once they are pointed out to you, are hard to mistake. Finally the effects bear no resemblance to each other. Hallucinogenic mushrooms may not be the choice of everyone — but only if the information is available and accurate, can that choice be made. The DS tell lies.

SNIFFIN' AROUND

Mushrooms are freely available 10 weeks in every year: cheap home grown grass could be available all year round. Its not, because of hypocritical laws which allow ½ million alcoholics to suffer for the sake of government taxes and the profits of the multi-nationals they serve, but bans other home-produced highs. So many teenage kids bored and poor, no jobs, dull city life, looking for kicks.....and sniffing of chemical substances in glue or whatever becomes the only available and cheap turn-on. Contrary to the shock-horror press (who claim to be keeping quiet on the issue, lest it could lead to its escalation) glue sniffing does not create a physical dependency—i.e. there are no withdrawal symptoms, though a

SLAVERY IS FREEDOM!!!!

They caught Hercules the bear, so what! The bear, whose name probably indicated the massive profits made from the so-called 'cereals' and toilet paper 'humanity' had defeated him into advertising, managed to escape while 'on location' in the Outer Hebrides. A great little item to add a light touch onto the news and lift peoples minds off the continual problems that effect them daily - but, at the same time the bear, like all other animals, institutions, the weather etc., must be seen to be controllable - otherwise the insecurity of elements being 'outta control' just might indicate a weak link in the present orders chain of infallibility. The islanders had the right idea in rejecting the lure of £1000 reward and calling for the perpetual freedom of the bear — freedom from the humility and constraint of captivity and from advertising toilet paper - of course the mass media didn't mention much of this -it would have spoiled the fun!

and on supplementary benefits. The attitudes of the Church, particularly the Roman Catholic hierarchy, the lack of sex education in schools and comparisons with other legislation on abortion particular Italy, were discussed.

It was generally agreed that to go for parity with the rest of the UK by asking for the extension of the 67 Abortion Act was the very minimal demand we could make. Whilst we must fight for this in the short term it should be seen as an integral part of a campaign for a woman's right to choose free abortion on demand. Whilst we can learn from the experiences of the National Abortion Campaign in England, our own experience will not be the same, we are not defending the limited rights already won: we don't have those rights. Links with our sisters in the South and their Right to Choose Campaign have already been made, their situation, fighting a State with a powerful Church influence is very much the same as our own. It was felt that lobbying the twelve Westminster MPs (with the exception of Jim Kilfedder perhaps) was a waste of time but that we should not forget those MPs in England who have been sympathetic to Ireland on other issues.

However, as one woman said, laws could be taken away or just not implemented, and we should be concentrating on sharing our knowledge with other women. It was agreed that our primary task was to bring women together for meetings and more conferences to discuss abortion and to help lay the groundwork for a concerted province wide campaign for a woman's right to choose.

psychological dependence is possible, depending on the individual. Prolonged use could damage the liver, the brain and mistakes can and are fatal but little research and no outcry is forthcoming from those areas where it does create permanent damage, through prolonged exposure by workers in industry. There's no campaigning here!! Much easier for the DS to play father-god spewing out their reactionary cliches to kids whose only purpose is to blot out the dull reality around them. And who is trying to change this reality? make it stimulating? to by-pass the need to blot out experiences? Not the hypocrits or the religious freaks, who do no more than talk and threaten (they'd prosecute except its too impractical to make Evo-stick illegal!!) Sniffin glue is not a problem, its merely a by-product of a system which bans those substances which could be freely available and which do more good than harm! But that would challenge the existence of the drug squad and mess up the profits and taxes made from government controlled drugs!

URANIUM LIES IN DONEGAL

Following fast on the mining companies latest propaganda piece (a short (mis-titled) booklet 'Uranium Mining: the facts as IBM see it) comes the moves by the P.R. firm in charge of their dirty image to "get into the schools" They are currently doing recruitment talks. Much of their energy is being spent trying, unsuccessfully, to undo the anti-uranium feeling in the area.

Meanwhile the local Co. Council, after months of hedging, have been forced to help finance an "independent" study into the impact to the area of mining and exploration. It seems likely that they will go along with the proposed research by Oxford based P.E.R.G., something the Donegal Uranium Committee have been raising funds for, for months. However those in the council who have large stakes on the mining co. Irish Base Metals, have as yet to make public their 'interests'. The sooner they are exposed the better!



DEPRESSED! DON'T BE CRACKING UP, SURE AREN'T WE SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS!

OUR EMPLOYER would love us to work for him provided we don't ask for more money, or a share of the profits he's making through screwing us.

THE BANKER who will help us with a loan to tide us over provided we pay them back regularly plus of course the interest.

THE BUILDING SOCIETY will certainly give us a mortgage as long as we have a steady lifetime of toil and keep up the monthly instalments plus the 20% interest.

THE CLERGY, always someone to confide in as long as we stick to the christian moral code of monogamous relationships, treating women as inferior with no say in the control of their own bodies, look at people who are gay as bad sick or sad etc., never worry about life now and look forward to the pie in the sky.

THE DOCTOR to preserve my body from ills so that I can continue producing at work. To make my mind feel happier when I'm depressed just as long as we keep taking the pills and don't take up too much of their time; who insists that its all my fault and not to blame the society we live in where it's normal to kill, imprison and torture people in the interests of preserving that society.

THE POLITICIANS who promises to solve all my problems if we put an X beside their names every so often.

THE POLICE who keep safe my few possessions and also my employers vast wealth and property just as long as I don't mind the side-effects of torture and wholesale repression and the creation of a police state.

THE ARMY to protect this wonderful welfare state; to ensure my freedom by removing my few remaining rights.

THE COURTS protecting me by imprisoning the thousands that break the law; to see that justice is not done and not seen to be done. More and more of their rules make it more and more difficult to conform.

TELEVISION which every night keeps me entertained and stops my mind from wondering, a passive consumer of their news and ideologies, a one-way communication in which I can never participate or challenge.

THE DOLE, who when I'm thrown on the scrap heap give me just enough money to stop me from starving in the streets or forcing me to expropriate to survive.

WHAT FRIENDS!

continued from front page

the context of the coming hunger strike and the increased role of the RUC. Most people imagine the NI Office will try and ride the wave of the strike. But it seems that, as well as intensify their propaganda efforts abroad to distance the reasons for the strike and to minimise the support for it, they will locally take action to stop, contain and smother any protest on the streets.

As the hunger strike will in many ways produce a high level of support available outside, the RUC and UDR will see this as a test of their own strength. If they lose their front line position to the army it will be a reflection not just their capabilities but also on the new image of Northern Ireland. This is presented as a society, not with political disturbances, but one with a problem of simply 'law and order' and thus needing a strong local police force.

If the hunger strike fails, it will have repercussions on many other areas. Primarily the RUC will reestablish themselves and there will be a clamping down on deviant, 'subversive' activity that are now necessary just to stay alive and sane.

They will begin to imprison all those who cannot pay their rent, or electricity, or people on the double, or taking part on unemployment marches, or picketing, or for being gay, or smoking a joint etc.

Also the prison system itself will be cock-a-hoop and any hope that other prisoners have of improving conditions such as cell space and education will have suffered a fatal blow. In NI, most people know someone who has been in prison for one reason or another.

If the strike is defeated the British government may feel strong enough to impose an assembly of sorts here. With such reactionaryaries as Paisley top of the polls, any prospect of reform legislation on homosexuality and abortion may be dashed.

But surely the most important reason for supporting the hunger strike is the responsibility of us all to prevent a death in Long Kesh or if unable, then to make sure its not in vain.

TACTICS

During last summers hunger strike of Martin Meehan, local groups from many areas of the city conducted leafletting, postering, petitioning, held street meetings and blocked roads.

We could refine the postering and leafletting by each area 'adopting' a striker. Everyweek a new poster and leaflet would go out giving the details of the striker and the latest general developments. If mass postering was done it would not only inform the local people what was happening but also impress upon the NIO the amount of support. It would create the atmosphere where, if other activity was going on, people would know WHY and not denounce these others as extremists or vandals.

While marching up and down the Falls Rd. is now a ritual, it still has advantages. It gives people who would not be involved otherwise, a chance to show support; it contradicts the lie of the British, Southern and Northern establishment medias which claims there is no such support; and it is less likely to be attacked by the RUC, the army, or sectarian gangs. But we should not rely on these marches too much as the British government knows that half the battle is to contain protests within West Belfast.

On the subject of the media, we should set up, and rely on our own resources. There are a couple of printing presses, several duplicators and a couple of regular papers already in existence. The establishment media, while being used should never be relied on -- even the Irish News which if a crunch came, would side with the Church and SDLP.

For that reason it is important to inform sections of the population in Scotland, Wales, England, North America, Europe etc. about what is going on and get their support. The idea of the mass postering should be suggested to groups in these countries. Groups in each city could again adopt a striker and poster many of the public buildings as well as hold public meetings, etc.

While marching up and down the Falls Rd. is now a ritual, it still has advantages. It gives people who would not be involved otherwise, a chance to show support; it contradicts the lie of the British, Southern and Northern establishment medias which claims there is no such support; and it is less likely to be attacked by the RUC, the army, or sectarian gangs. But we should not rely on these marches too much as the British government knows that half the battle is to contain protests within West Belfast.

On the subject of the media, we should set up, and rely on our own resources. There are a couple of printing presses, several duplicators and a couple of regular papers already in existence. The establishment media, while being used should never be relied on -- even the Irish News which if a crunch came, would side with the Church and SDLP.

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RUC ROLE

The stopping of the picket can also be seen in

the context of the coming hunger strike and the increased role of the RUC. Most people imagine the NI Office will try and ride the wave of the strike. But it seems that, as well as intensify their propaganda efforts abroad to distance the reasons for the strike and to minimise the support for it, they will locally take action to stop, contain and smother any protest on the streets.

As the hunger strike will in many ways produce a high level of support available outside, the RUC and UDR will see this as a test of their own strength. If they lose their front line position to the army it will be a reflection not just their capabilities but also on the new image of Northern Ireland. This is presented as a society, not with political disturbances, but one with a problem of simply 'law and order' and thus needing a strong local police force.

If the hunger strike fails, it will have repercussions on many other areas. Primarily the RUC will reestablish themselves and there will be a clamping down on deviant, 'subversive' activity that are now necessary just to stay alive and sane.

They will begin to imprison all those who cannot pay their rent, or electricity, or people on the double, or taking part on unemployment marches, or picketing, or for being gay, or smoking a joint etc.

Also the prison system itself will be cock-a-hoop and any hope that other prisoners have of improving conditions such as cell space and education will have suffered a fatal blow. In NI, most people know someone who has been in prison for one reason or another.

If the strike is defeated the British government may feel strong enough to impose an assembly of sorts here. With such reactionaryaries as Paisley top of the polls, any prospect of reform legislation on homosexuality and abortion may be dashed.

But surely the most important reason for supporting the hunger strike is the responsibility of us all to prevent a death in Long Kesh or if unable, then to make sure its not in vain.

TACTICS

During last summers hunger strike of Martin Meehan, local groups from many areas of the city conducted leafletting, postering, petitioning, held street meetings and blocked roads.

We could refine the postering and leafletting by each area 'adopting' a striker. Everyweek a new poster and leaflet would go out giving the details of the striker and the latest general developments. If mass postering was done it would not only inform the local people what was happening but also impress upon the NIO the amount of support. It would create the atmosphere where, if other activity was going on, people would know WHY and not denounce these others as extremists or vandals.

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Ways will have to be devised to get information across to everybody, to get the support and sympathy from the general public and not just the catholic ghettos.

LOCAL GROUPS

In the event of local groups being set up, they should each send a delegate, or 2, to a weekly meeting where developments and tactics could be discussed. The strength of this structure would be the local groups which would be the instigators of activity. The delegates would coordinate this work eg. by suggesting that certain events happened on certain days for effect. The local groups would not be told what to do, but make up their own minds whether to cooperate or not. Different areas might have different circumstances. But more important, they then can't be held back. At the Martin Meehan march in the New Lodge, Sinn Féin announced it was called off because Martin had come off his strike. Many people milled around for hours and some went home, but the feeling was so strong that the march went ahead anyway.

DONT GET DAUGHT

When public events are staged thousands of leaflets should be distributed at them. Spectacular leafletting, such as the dropping them from high buildings, would take the RUC unawares. The element of surprise is important because the state will be out to clamp down on any protest, and in our efforts we must not place ourselves in a position of being easily arrested. Get yourself a mirror, so if you are arrested you know who will be phoning up and asking to speak to you. Get information on your rights -- Just Books has just done a guide to your rights.

WHEN THEY ASK ME WHY I DID IT
AND I'M LYING ON THE RACK
I'LL CLENCH MY SHATTERED FIST
& SAY
I DID IT FOR THE CRACK!



SAS ON THE DOLE

In mid September, two Sunday workmen came across two hooded SAS men in the Falls Rd dole office.....the SAS men bundled them off to Springfield Rd RUC station for interrogation, but their cover was blown. "Surveillance" they said. (...just down the road from their look-outs at the RVH).

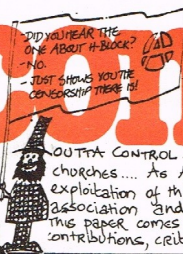
This week, two top political republican campaigners were murdered, a third badly injured... in what looks like standard SAS dirty-work. A week later, the SAS bust up a H Block meeting chasing shadows. The RUC say they weren't involved.....until six hours later when Whitehall instructions made them change their minds and clear the SAS blunder by claiming it a planned and co-ordinated exercise.

No way -- the SAS have got the go-ahead to do what they want -- and they want to murder a number of republican people in Belfast. And the top level Tories mastermind it all in London.

A few years back there was a direct link between SS files and the army computer, but this link was supposedly stopped following trade union pressure. The SAS men were most likely "by passing" the official army method of getting their hands on supposedly confidential files.....all that family/personal info is so very useful during their psycho-interrogation. Possibly the SAS had intended photographing the files...equally plausible would be the installing of a bugging device. Claimants beware!

Outta Control

News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective



OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches.... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of FREE association and self-management. This paper comes out every 3-4 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

**DON'T
LET
THEM
DIE!**



The prisoners in the H-Blocks and Armagh have played their last card. Their tactic of the hunger strike alone, will not get them political status but should act as a catalyst for action in support of the prisoners outside the prison. Certainly the threat of coffins emerging from the H-Blocks and Armagh has imposed a heavy strain on people, especially on those who have done all they can to support the blanket men so far and who now feel they have to make further sacrifices.

Clued-in.

People in anti-unionist areas are well informed about the prisoners struggle and are given quite a different story from that of the British government. Leaflets, posters and street meetings are regular occurrences calling on peoples support. The Irish News, read mainly by anti-unionists is filled with advertisements every day in support of the prisoners demands. The letters column print the letters advocating the reasons for support. People don't see this simply in terms of an extension of the provo military campaign but view it in a wider context, a show of strength against the forces of repression and reaction that have kept them knuckled under for the last 50 years.

"Just another Papish Plot"

Unfortunately, once again, the protestants are largely kept in ignorance and lies, and are unaware of other issues involved. They are fed unionist and British information from the pro-government B.B.C, U.T.V. and the Belfast Telegraph, whose letter columns never print anything in support of the prison struggle. In this sectarian state, where housing, employment and recreational facilities are divided according to your religion, it is very difficult to try to communicate another point of view to protestants. However, every attempt should be made to engage in debate. This may sound naive, but there has always been an abysmal failure on the part of the left to win over any support from the protestant working class.

It is no wonder

that they hold such distorted and reactionary views on what is happening, when they supposedly get the official Catholic view from such reactionaries as the the catholic church and the S.D.L.P. politicians, not to mention the sectarian shit from their own politicians. They no doubt interpret this upsurge as another attack on their state, a state which they are gradually realising does not operate in their interests.

VOTE WITH YOUR FEET

The action of the prisoners in declaring a hunger strike has escalated political activity. Thousands of people have marched, demonstrated, and picketed and occupied public buildings all in support of the prisoners demands. Surely when there is a mass of people calling for reform the British government should listen? After all that's the democratic system at work. Or so we are led to believe. This democratic state is exposed for what it really is, just a pretence.

BRITISH THE LOSERS

Whatever the outcome of the strike the British government lose either way. If they do give into the demands of the hunger strikers this will increase confidence in overthrowing the sectarian state. And if they let the prisoners die there will be, almost certainly, an upsurge in street violence, not as will make out engineered by a few terrorists but by frustrated people who had peacefully tried and failed and who now turn their anger to violence. And when this is suppressed by massive British Army repression, people will not easily forget events. Maybe the forces of the RUC, UDR etc. will contain in the future the provisional IRA at an 'acceptable' level of violence but it will always take the thousands of troops to keep down the insurgent population who reject the state. The British Army will never be able to leave Ireland in a way they would like to. New forms of struggle and more effort we hope will avoid any prisoner dying.

STOP PRESS

It is now inevitable that 3 or 4 women from Armagh Gaol will also start a hunger strike. Names are not being released until the relatives are first informed. More hunger strike news inside.

**IF VOTING COULD CHANGE
THE SYSTEM IT WOULD
BE MADE ILLEGAL!**

Half the American population didn't bother to vote in the recent Presidential elections. Even under enormous pressure of the millions spent on the campaign to do so. (Even the media coverage here really made you think you were missing something UGH!) And only 25% of the registered voters voted for the ex-B-movie actor Reagan. People have always seen through and rejected this sham "democracy". The American and British states representative democracy represents nobody apart from the state and private enterprise in exploiting the many for the few.

No political party is worth putting into power, no matter how radical they appear. Once they're in power their only aim is to keep that power over us and to eliminate and repress any opposition to it. Political parties have never been the "voice" or the "vanguard" of the working class. The people have always made demands beyond what the most revolutionary parties can give. We will not overthrow one tyrannical state to replace it with another and wait for the "withering away of that state". Anarchists do not see themselves seizing power on the behalf of the workers but act as a catalyst when people unite and overthrow this rotten sectarian state and urge people to take direct control of their own work places and communities. A democracy where everyone can control their own life without controlling others.



The uranium prospecting companies in Donegal continue their propaganda offensive with their expensive public-relations firm churning out new ideas nearly every week. During the Donegal by-election the mining companies sent large sums of money to all the major parties. Things are a bit too touchy in Donegal at the moment, so the political machines all made a fuss about refusing. Next, the mining multi-nationals are eager to finance cable television for the local farmers in the mining areas around Lettermacaward. Their 'generous offer' has been refused here too.

They're getting the cold shoulder everywhere-except from the local shareholders.

Because of their political sympathies and their positions as capitalist enterprises the Belfast Telegraph and Newsletter, and Ulster Television have begun and continued their coverage of the hunger-strike and protests in an unashamedly biased way. BBC are owned by the government, and Downtown Radio, while giving out a little more information than the rest are opportunists as all good capitalists should be. The Irish News comes under pressure to give the most favourable coverage as it is mainly geared towards the minority (being a staunch supporter of the Catholic Church and SDLP). But as the weeks go on a careful counter to the strikers case is appearing more.

Firstly the Unionist media. They tend to work on two levels. On the one hand they distort and deceive. This comes naturally from much experience in denouncing the blanket protest. The strikers are 'murderers, criminals, and their condition is self-inflicted'. On the day the strike was announced the *Tele* carried the Diplock court judge's comments and recommendations on the seven strikers when they were convicted in the juryless court.

The BBC, after two reasonable documentaries (one national and one local) gave us a 'debate' – with 5 unionists, the BBC controller, and the editor of the Tele.

On the other hand they play things down. UTV are the best example. Despite an initial Counterpoint programme which tried to compensate for an earlier whitewash of H-Block conditions, they have consistently given scant coverage to the protests.

Downtown, the north's latest media concern, has no obvious 'political' allegiance other than to money. They do cover protests, but in order to keep walking the profitable tight-rope, they present them as 'incidents', with no context or background information.

The Irish News made a lot of money from adverts from support groups. They do cover the protests and statements from campaigners, but recently they have welcomed the opportunity of giving much coverage to the anti-strikers view of Gerry Fitt, John Hume and the Alliance Party.

It wouldn't be surprising if Gerry Fitt had a cushy job lined up somewhere. His 'regret at having supported the earlier campaign for political status' might just spell the end of his parliamentary career. On the other hand he might be confident of the Tory government's ability to repress the present campaign and hopes to be able to pick up some pieces under the banner of a new Labour party.

He and Hume, who complained about intimidation after his offices were occupied, have given the press many a headline and column in its campaign of distortion and denigration.

POLITICANS AND THE CHURCHES

As for the SDLP they are politicians who wheel and deal in order to get power. That is the nature of politicians and all who aspire to govern. The Catholic Church has its own command structure and flock of 'governed'.

Much pressure is being put in these 2 bodies to speak out and to 'intervene'. While it is vital to rally support and try all sorts of tactics these 'managers' of people first need to maintain and increase their sphere of power, or influence if the power hasn't yet come their way

Because of the lobbying many of them have spoken out. Some of them genuinely believe that they are acting in the interests of the 'flock' or 'constituency', and some do speak from a humanitarian motivation.

But they can rarely help those who seek to challenge injustice and repression. Politicians and Priests are 'managers'. If out of favour with the state they will woo those repressed. But their professions are authoritarian. Without power or the promise of it they wither.

If they were to speak out, they would do so to get credibility. If they were to intervene they would make deals with those whose power they envied. When internment was ended the more sinister and effective repressive legislation, the EPA was introduced.

I don't think the hunger-strikers would thank us if the politicians and church arranged a deal which, say, gave political status, but which also was on a par with Special Category 'A' in England, as Tim Pat Coogan proposed.

If the government gives in it will be because the protests have escalated and leave it no choice. If the government makes a deal, it will do so with such as the SDLP, and as with the ending of internment it won't be the SDLP who suffer from the Rent and Rates Act and the EPA.

From the little knowledge I have of the collectives and individuals who claim the label, anarchist, in Ireland there is much which needs criticism, this from a position of solidarity and an objective analysis of the conditions of this situation in this part of the world. I intend to show where the anarchists are failing, they are aware of their successes.

Firstly, there are the different collectives, the Anarchist Workers Alliance, the Belfast Anarchist Collective and the Anarchist Bookshop Collective in Dublin. There are also some anarchists who remain aloof not only from collectives but even the reality in which we are forced to exist. Is not the basis of anarchy, association through mutual association? If so why can these

collectives can come together in an alliance or federation of anarchists? Embracing at the same time the individuals and other smaller groups of anarchists in Ireland. Are they so totally idealistic that there is no common ground, no mutual interests? For so long as the politics of the parties and their fixation on power is allowed to dominate the scene of organised people attempting to bring about change then anarchy will be an abstraction of little consequence to the daily lives of the people and after all who is this about, the anarchists or the people? The same question that is put by anarchists to the political parties I now put to you. The only way to negate the power politics is to organise against it. This can only be achieved if the collectives and individuals come together and federate not only on a small area but also on the international scale of the type that was in existence at the time of the Spanish Civil War.

It must go further than this of course because the mistakes made by others must be examples to us of what not to do. What it means is going into the controversies that are created in this situation and putting forward the anarchist alternative as a real manifestation of people's power in opposition to party power. It does not mean that we remain aloof from the struggles of the people we must get involved. To put into action a new programme of progress it is necessary for a new perspective, it is time for a new analysis, based on the history and experience of the left alternative and central to the oppression of the patriarchal world is the exploitation of women. This is not an issue of marginal importance it is crucial to the development of an alternative to party control, of any authoritarian taint or composition. It means the building of an alternative based on the crux of oppression and feminism provides the most concise and substantially correct analysis of the patriarchy to date. Women must be recognised as the foremost thinkers and innovators of revolutionary example and potential, anarchists must come to terms with the fact that the way forward is in giving solidarity to the feminists whose nature precludes a corruption of power and whose interests in the main are the interests of all. They are the base, the base of all exploitation, economic, and sexually, culturally—totally, rests on the domination of the male and the subservience of the female, not only in our society but also the eastern social orders. We must seek to set up the alternative society by acting in opposition to the state of things, taking over run down properties and urging workers to take control of their factories, and the large ranches owned at present by capitalist interests. Real opposition to the state can only be based on the right of the people to self defence; at the moment it is illegal for those without a permit to bear arms, and these permits are restricted to those who present no threat to

capital; the police and army have the right to use arms to protect the state, we must fight for the right to bear arms to defend ourselves, this can only be done by arming without permits.

Anything that they legislate is an usurpation of the power of the people; the token of resistance is worthy but not enough; the people must see the repression of the state, it will not be apparent if its true nature is always hidden.

By seeking to set up collectives and expropriating the means, we are offering a real alternative. Women who are now asserting themselves should be engaged in the actuality of resistance to the power of the male, take up new ways, the only way for people to see new possibilities is through example and at the moment the only example of the anarchist movement is cloaked in myth and fictionalised – a good example of what to avoid. It is 1980, the arguments of the last century have no real meaning. Actions are what are required. Can the anarchist and feminist movement provide them?

Pauline Mc Laughlin, 23, from Derry City, whose weight has halved to 4½ st, has returned to Armagh jail after a spell in Musgrave Hospital. She is critically ill and still refused adequate treatment.

SEAMUS MULLAN-

Seamus Mullan, 25, from Co. Derry is now over 60 days on hunger strike. He has been moved to Musgrave Military Hospital and he may not last longer than a week. He says his blackmail 'conviction' was a frame-up and wants the family who testified against him to admit they perjured.

'ANARCHIST WORKER' - JUST OUT - THE NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE ANA. GREAT ARTICLES ON LIBERATING EDUCATION, WORKERS CO-OPS, HUNGER STRIKE, SOUTHERN IOWA'S NEUTRALITY EXPOSED. PLAINLY ONLY 15¢.

YOUTH AGAINST H-BLOCK

In recent weeks there have been more and more youth groups present on the pickets and marches in support of the hunger strikers in H Blocks.

Over the past few weeks the youth have taken a more and more important part in activities. They have done poster, leafleting, manning the cells and much more.

Among these activities is the circulation of petitions around schools. And even some walk outs have been staged. But this activity has been heavily attacked by the authorities, who say that this political movement in schools will not be tolerated and that schools are not the place for the "transaction of political business".

To say this is absolute hypocrisy when every day young people are conditioned to accept authority which is the basis on which our political and economic systems exist.

At the minute the youth groups still maintain a hierarchical system of organisation and the youth still do specifically/ typically youth activities like sponsored walks and the like.

So there is still a lot of ground to be covered. The youth will have to take the situation and their own groups into their own hands and not be misled by a few dominating adults who want to run the show. Activity within the schools is of the utmost importance. The youth group should work towards this and try and co-ordinate a city wide walk out in the various schools.

Maybe if a hall is obtained some videos could be shown and some discussions arranged.

WORKING FOR THE AMAZING MR. ATKINS

Industrial investment in the North is as rare as army intelligence. Recently, an American-owned firm-EUROWELD- (who make most of their profits by supplying pressure vessels to the nuclear industry)- announced a £1m. expansion programme at their Belfast factory. The investment, we were assured, was to the benefit of everyone. Mousing to Atkins, the Euroweld chairman said in October... 'I can think of no more unbeatable combination than labour, management and government working together'. Indeed! 4 weeks later it was discovered the 'investment' was to semi-automate the production process, and now redundancies are planned, NOT jobs as promised.

The workers are now threatening occupation. We hope that this militant stand will be accompanied by a more social awareness of the products they produce.

Again in Nov., an £18m. investment in Shorts has been heralded as great news for the skilled work-force of Ireland. The money is partly government (taken from people) and partly 'commercial investment' and will be used to increase even further the war weapons of the legal RAF. Once again, the Amazing Mr. Atkins tries to make it sound like a gift to the working people of Belfast, something we should be grateful for....more weapons, more war planning.

Thank you very much, Mr. Atkins.

COMMUNITY ARTS

In September 1978 Lord (if it moves give it a grant) Melchett revealed that his department of Education was making an extra £100,000 a year available to the Arts Council on top of its existing £100,000 budget to promote 'Community Art'.

The N.I. Arts Council set up a Community Arts Committee with a brief to concentrate on deprived areas, three development officers were to go out to various community work agencies and 'Make' community art.

This idea provided a buffer zone between the concept of working class/community/ rough inarticulate as opposed to middle class/sophisticated art. It might have undermined the whole concept of art if the two were to meet and might further lead to ordinary people questioning the role of art. It meant all those people wanting money for ordinary people could be safely directed to the Community Arts Department.

Where do the people in the Arts Council and the Lord Melchett get their ideas from, ideas designed to distort, confuse and co-opt any challenge to their power?

From the minutes of the Community Services Department (a sub-committee of the City Council):

"The Director reported that an invitation had been received from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon for representatives of the Council to attend a conference entitled "The Relationship of Community Work and Community Arts" to be held in Caxton Hall, London on Friday 23rd February 1979. The Committee agreed that the chairman and Director attend the conference and approved of the payment of the conference fees and appropriate travelling and subsistence allowance in connection therewith"



Films are a way of turning money into light and then back into money. This has largely been the criteria by which most films are produced by the film 'industry'.

Occasionally, however people manage to side-step this ideology and somehow raise the money and make films designed to communicate, provoke, make a political point rather than make a fast buck. Usually we had the opportunity of seeing these films at the Queens Film Theatre, as the main cinemas see them as politically too hot to handle, or they wouldn't make enough money. The QFT's main concern was once to show films of interest rather than profit.

DISAPPOINTMENT

This season, however, the QFT's administrator, Michael Open is content to repeat films first shown in the city centre, most of which have no merit and the ones that have we could have already seen (which shows how much the QFT panders to the migrant student audience rather than the regular film goer). Perhaps its to do with him playing politically safe, a self imposed censorship. (To retain the Arts Council's grant?)

COP-OUT

He regarded the film "The Outsider" as technically inferior. What he really meant was that it was too politically hot to handle. (It realistically portrayed the RUC as torturing scum) He should take note from his predecessor who had shown such notable films as "Battle of Algiers" "State of Siege" etc., which played to packed houses reflecting the enormous interest by Belfast people.

The Gulbenkian Foundation is a right wing foundation based on the wealth of Gulbenkian a now rich, dead capitalist who got his money by exploiting the Portuguese people.

The foundation pours millions of pounds into all sorts of causes designed to maintain the status quo (Although it gives money to radical groups just enough to retain its credibility) Northern Ireland has had more than its fair share of the money through one channel or another all contributing to the counter-insurgency plan.

The Arts Council and City Council for the past year has been nurturing the community arts in N. Ireland. The City Council, as part of their growing imperialism, stage managed the scheme to encourage the painting of murals on walls in various parts of the City at a cost of £38,000. Art College students were paid during the summer vacation to paint wall murals with the help of local people. The design for the murals, of course had first to be submitted to Brendan Henry, senior community services officer (an old CRA campaigner, oh how times have changed!) He would see if the designs were to his liking and would act as a censor if he thought anything in the drawing was politically sensitive.

These wall murals amounted to a kind of cultural imperialism. The content of the murals bore no relation or meaning to ordinary peoples lives and were done by outsiders "educated" at the College of Art which has its own bourgeois conception of high art and community art. These murals were executed in deprived working class areas and would have been unthinkable in middle class areas. Of course this was also a handy opportunity by the authorities to eradicate all those nasty political slogans.

However with the Tory cuts the mural painting will 'go to the wall'. Other aspects of community art will also suffer mainly due to the £1,000 a day upkeep of the monument to bourgeois culture, the Grand Opera House.

At the recent opening of the City Councils 'Community Art' the Lord Mayor was confronted by a slogan shouting H-Block picket displaying posters and stickers. That's what we call 'community art'!



Like all groups, we need money to help us in our support for the hunger strike.... for posters, leaflets, stickers, video etc. Help us to help the hunger strikers.

If you would like to join the B.A.C. or would simply like to know more, write to:

B.A.C.
c/o 7, Winetavern St,
Smithfield,
Belfast 1. Ph. 25426.

LETTER FROM — "LONG KESH ANARCHIST."

The British have said that my comrades in the Hell Blocks are criminals. By accusing my comrades of being criminals their accusation is also directed at me and all prisoners held in the Cages of Long Kesh. Yet we lie here in the Cages affording the Special privileges that goes with political recognition. We have been given no 'government issue clothes' to wear, nor have we been offered any with which to refuse to wear. Why?

Since 1971 we were recognised as different. While some of our number were sentenced, others were interned for their political convictions. Sooner or later we were all housed in what became infamous the world over as a symbol of British oppression in this North Eastern part of Ireland, Long Kesh. Within these cages we were all recognised by the British Government as, dare I use the word political prisoners. Sentenced men as well as the internees.

We in the cages still wear our own clothes, still associate with our own people, still do no prison work. In short, we have what the hunger strikers and the men in the Hell Blocks are fighting for, what the hunger strikers are prepared to die for.

With all this the British Government still state we are not political prisoners, does it really matter what they call us, we still remain apart from the social offender, we are still treated differently from them. Let them term it whatever they wish. Perhaps the Rev. Robert Bradford's term would be more appropriate for them to use 'ANIMALS'.

Because of our differential treatment we cannot be regarded as criminals, and because Britain states we are not political prisoners, what are we then? So long as we remain in Long Kesh with our present status we shall remain a living contradiction, an embarrassing contradiction to the British government and their 'Criminalisation' policy.

As for the charge of criminal directed at my comrades in the Blocks, have they robbed, plundered, exploited for their own ends. Are they motivated by a selfish desire to acquire wealth. No. Their only crime, and we must all plead guilty to this charge, is that they wish to see their country free from British domination. We are all guilty of the crime of want.

The British cite how cruel and murderous the men in the Hell Blocks are. They never mention how cruel and murderous those criminals in the Army forts, in the police stations, interrogation centres, in the government are.

They refuse to mention why the men in the blocks and all political prisoners are driven by necessity to resort to arms are forced to kill, are forced to cruelty. They never state that within this cruelty there is an intrinsic kindness. With all the killing there is an insatiable desire for peace, or how we all abhor war. They have never mentioned the suffering endured by these men, nor how, because of their despotic rule over us, they have made my comrades and I strangers in our homes, foreigners in our own land.

Dear comrades,

In my humble opinion the work you are doing is of the greatest importance, because whatever the immediate effect of OUTTA CONTROL may or may not be, you are establishing the anarchist tradition of tomorrow. And however we may look at it, tradition counts for a lot, maybe too much, in Ireland. The libertarian hordes won't all suddenly tumble from the sky, I'm afraid, so its down to the few that there are now to start the ball rolling. There seems to me from this great distance at least to be a great potential for the growth of a libertarian movement in your corner of the Gulag. Had there been a consciously anarchist tradition in Ireland (as distinct from the various anti-authoritarian and scattered libertarian elements, factions, splits, that litter the history of other movements there) before the 70s, to pose an alternative to both Marxism and the rival Nationalisms, things would certainly have been very different today. I hope this doesn't all sound too pompous simply keep on keeping on.....

Bearing in mind that there are few people that have never heard of anarchy (except as something to do with chaos or punk rock) its a good idea to do more general pieces (like in issue No 7) on what anarchism is really about. ...not the lovely sunshine utopia just around the bend that will one day drop out of the sky (when St. Bakunin is resurrected) but that libertarian forms of organisation work, are the best and are a PRACTICAL choice. (The 'no-go' areas are powerful arguments in our favour.) Also its worth pointing out that the 'statist federalism' being discussed so much in the nationalist papers (AP-RN etc) is not the only sort of federalism...that the anarchs have a (particularly when applied to Ireland) more practical form of federalism that is based on regionalism (not nationalism) and autonomous communities (not States or sectarian ghettos)

All the best.
PHIL RUFF,
HM Prison, Long Lartin, Evesham, Worcs.

We were all gentle and calm, with malice unknown, with abstracted peace. Yet courteous to their servility. They never relate the stories of how they subjected our people with famine, with murder, and surely with genocide in mind. Why have they done this? Why for all these centuries have they subjected our people, our land, by their culture, with their barbaric customs of torturing us and then lock us up so that they will be free to torture even more. Why? To rob to rape, to plunder, to murder, to exploit to dominate.

Many of us prior to the war lived carefree. We knew little of our own suffering, we were all servile until the wailings of our people filled our hearts and heads. Behind our quiet eyes we awoke to hear the cry of suffering. Awoke and recognised our slavery. Awoke at the sound of armoured cars and sirens forever sounding. How we feared those dreaded nocturnal sounds, the stench of fear when we heard the banging on the door, noises which only the unfree know about.

Do you remember the feeling as the door came crashing in, with khaki clad bodies, themselves only prisoners, charging in to drag off mother, father, brother, sister, wife, husband, daughter, son. Do you remember the shriek of nerves as we watched them being dragged, kicking, being kicked, with face split with pain, a memory only the unfree possess.

When they found their tactic of murder could not break the will of the people, in face of the USC, RUC, UDR., SAS., British Army, we remained steadfast. By tacit agreement they erected cages, but that didn't succeed. Then they created concrete jungles, they built Divis Blocks and Hell Blocks, blocks with which they hope to break. They refused to recognise that only the people can break us, the murder gangs recognised but they failed. To break the will of the people is to make them accept the chains of British oppression, this they have refused to do. They see in the British a foe, the common foe, the centuries old foe.

It is with this knowledge that the men in the Hell Blocks sing in cells. By isolation they failed, with beating they failed, because with pent up feelings our voices strong and steady, but with tears close and sharp, seeking for names to settle on, brother, sister, mother, father, wife, husband, daughter, son, friends and neighbours, comrades one and all.

They say we are criminals, their distorted propaganda speaks but nothing speaks louder than the action of the people, a whole people. It is those people we take our orders from, those people whose dictates we follow, for those people say, we are with you, fight on.

The hunger strikers may well die, for what? They have accepted their fate with the strength fed to them by the courage of the people. Britain will surely let them die, for what? If they are allowed to die we must ensure that they are the last to be murdered by a foreign power.

They will die refusing the tag of criminal, because in British eyes, that is, the eyes of her government, the eyes of her ruling class, it is a crime to love your people, it is a crime to want to free them from the chains of government. We are all of us criminals in the eyes of the ruling classes, we are criminals of want.

No government in Ireland can love the people because to love them is to free them, but they fear the people free. Should we all be proud to be criminals of want?

Dear comrades, brothers and sisters,

The political prisoners in Armagh and the Hell Blocks refuse to accept the tag of criminality being forced on them and on the entire anti-imperialist movement. With the failure of British ill conceived policy it was expected that the Brits would cut their losses, recognise the political prisoners and allow the issue to fade away. However, this was to presume a degree of common sense which the Brit government does not possess. Instead they continued in a bloody minded fashion to victimise the prisoners in apparent revenge for the overall failure of their criminalisation policy. Four years of isolation, nakedness, semi starvation, beatings, and unbelievable squalor ensued for the protesting prisoners as the Brits in trying to paint the prisoners as criminals actually demonstrated to the world the depth of their political awareness and commitment to the struggle for liberation.

In solidarity AIDAN McATEER Long Kesh.

PRISON NOTES